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Yours truly  
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# Historic Germantown

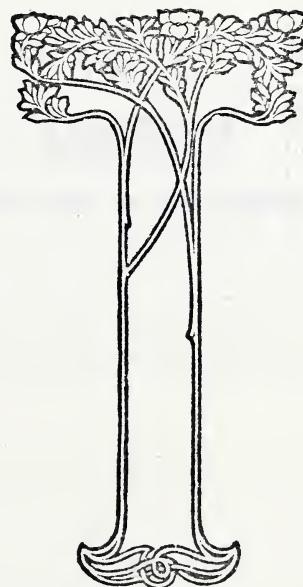
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BY

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DAVID SPENCER, D. D.

Pa.



HORACE F. McCANN, PUBLISHER  
Germantown, Philadelphia





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## DEDICATION

To the memory of my Father and Mother, Charles W. and Mary H. Spencer, who, from May, 1850, to their death, made their home in Germantown, and whose bodies rest in beautiful Ivy Hill Cemetery, this volume, by their youngest son, is most affectionately dedicated.



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## FOREWORD

An abiding and growing love for the town, where my happy boyhood days were spent, an honest and ever increasing pride in it, as the home of my riper years, and a profound interest in its past, present and future, as well as an ever-expanding appreciation of its fellowships and friendships, I have been prompted to write what is herewith sent forth on its mission of information as well as inspiration. All honor to the memories of the past, the most enlarged benedictions conceivable upon the people of the present, and the grandest realization of all that is most sanguine for the future is the wish of Germantown's friend;

THE AUTHOR.



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# HISTORICAL GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER I.

Prior to 1854 Germantown was in the county of Philadelphia. That year both city and county were incorporated as one city, which made Germantown a part of the city of Philadelphia.

From whatever standpoint the town is viewed, whether along educational, patriotic, religious, national, civil, social, industrial, literary or antique lines, it certainly deserves and is worthy the name Historic. If not the most, it certainly is one of the most historic towns of all in the United States.

On October 6, 1683, its founders arrived in Philadelphia, and on the 25th of said month they "took up lots" and began the settlement of the place. Coming from Germany they properly called their new community Germanopolis, or "Germantowne." The settlers purchased the land at one shilling an acre, and in the distribution of the property lots were cast. Plans for the arrangement and division of the town were made by Francis Daniel Pastorius, in reality the founder of the place, whose interesting career is part of the glory of our early history, and after whom is named one of our largest and best public schools, situated on East Chelten avenue, between Sprague and Devon streets.

The first to take up their residence here were "Mennonites, or German Friends." William Penn, in writing to James Logan of these, says: "They are a sober people, divers Mennonites, and will neither swear nor fight."

Germantown's well-known historian, Edwin C. Jellett, says: "There was a close connection, both in Germany and in their adopted country, between the Mennonites and Friends, and for a time the Mennonites lost their identity in the new colony."



For a century and more it remained an humble village, not thickly populated, its residences extending along the Main street for a little over a mile; yet ex-Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker and Edwin C. Jellett give it credit for the following noted historic facts, as so well phrased by Mr. Jellett:

"This village gave to this country the first Mennonite Bishop of the first Mennonite Church, who built the first paper mill in America—William Rittenhouse.



CHRISTOPHER SAUER PRINTING HOUSE

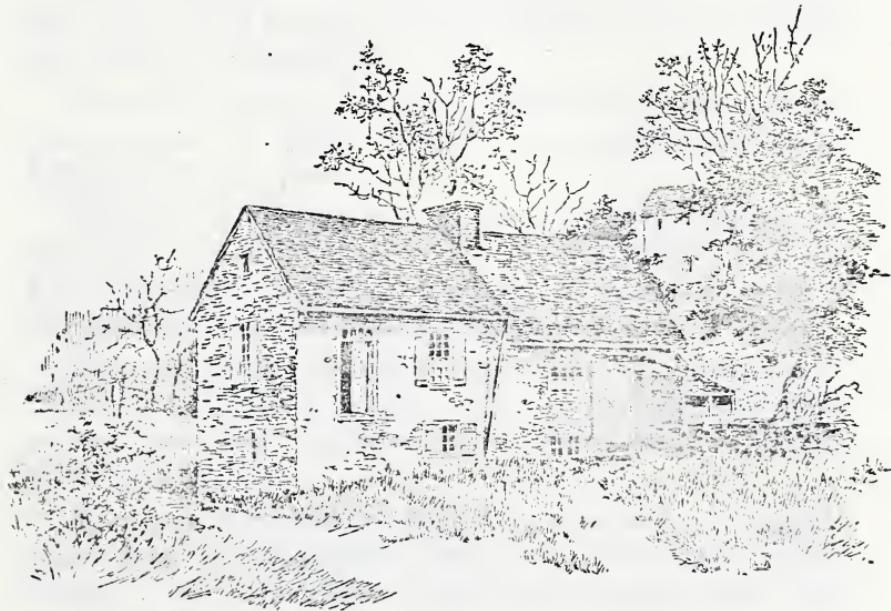
"It produced through Francis Daniel Pastorius the 'Four Treatises,' the first original scientific work published in America.

"It numbered among its citizens two of the most eminent scholars among the early emigrants to America—Francis Daniel Pastorius, who wrote fluently in eight lan-



guages, and Henry Benhard Kuster, who translated the Bible from the Septuagint Greek.

"These German Christians of Germantown in 1688 issued the first formal protest against American slavery. An anti-slavery society was organized the same year in their church. This was a whole century and three-quarters of another before the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln went into effect—January 1, 1863.



BIRTHPLACE OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE

"This village produced the first Pennsylvania school book, the 'Primer of Francis Daniel Pastorius, published in 1698.

"It produced the first American portrait in oil, that of John Kelpius, painted by Christopher Witt in 1705.

"In 1708 it built the first Mennonite meeting-house in America.

"It became the first home in America of the most unique body in the history of emigration, 'The Brethren,' a sect



which came to Germantowne in its entirety and here built its first church. This church was organized December 25, 1723. They were originally called Dunkers, or German Baptists.

"Here was issued the first known medical diploma in America, that given in 1738 to John Kaighn, of Haddonfield, N. J., by Dr. Christopher Witt.

"Here was born Dr. Adam Kuhn, a pupil of Linneus, and who in 1768 became the first teacher of *materia medica* and botany in America.

"Here was produced the first American Bible in an European tongue. It passed through seven editions before an English edition appeared.

"Here was published in 1746 the 'Geistliches Magazien,' the first religious magazine issued in America; also the first book upon 'Rules of Conduct' in America—that of Christopher Dock, printed by Christopher Saur.

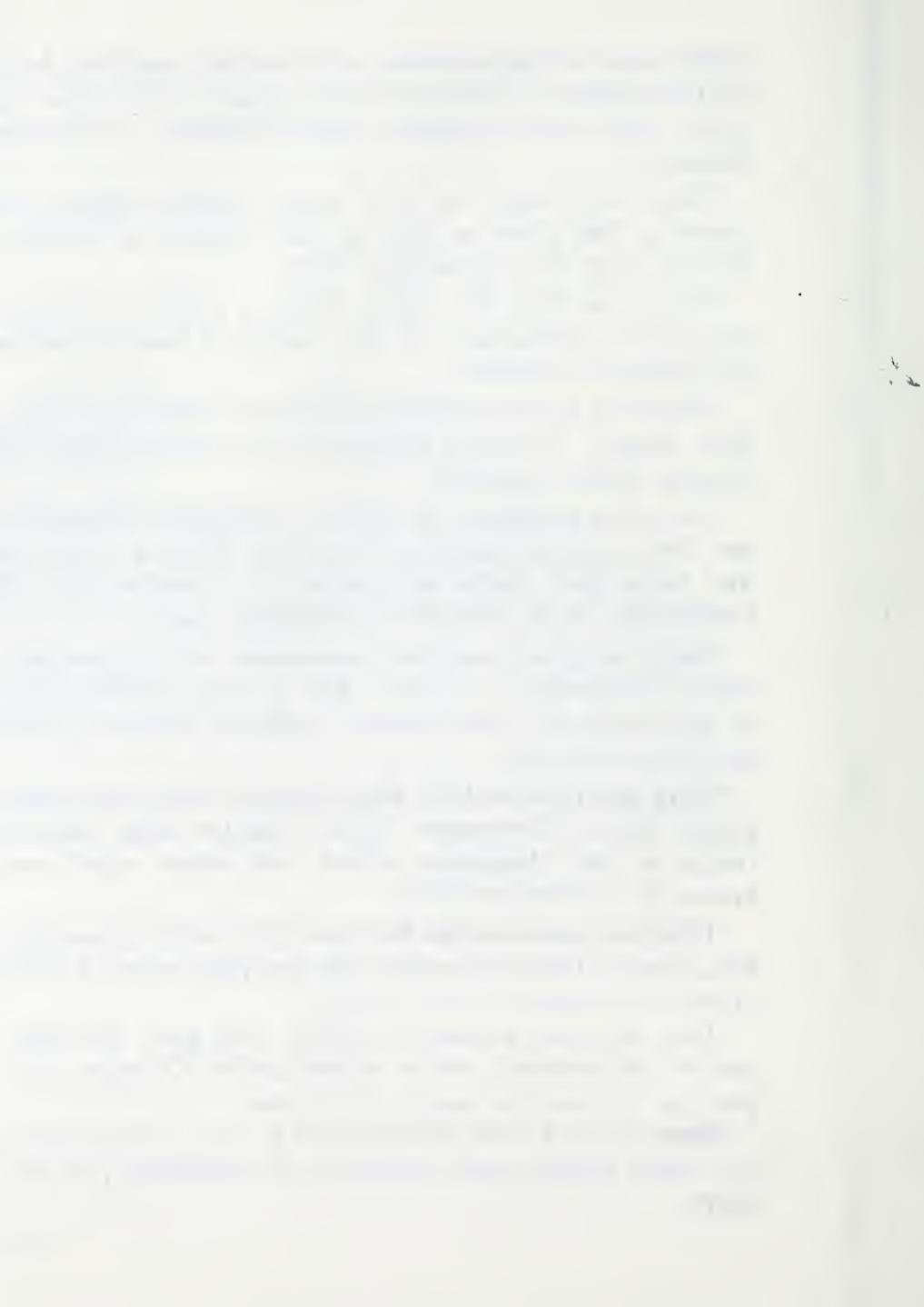
"Here the great American astronomer and philosopher, David Rittenhouse, was born. He, in 1769, published first to the world the approximately accurate distance of the earth from the sun.

"Here was published the first American book upon pedagogy—that of Christopher Dock, who for some seasons taught in the Mennonite School, and whose work was printed by Christopher Saur.

"Here was produced the first cast type made in America; also, through Christopher Saur, the 'ten plate stove,' a work of first importance to the Colonists.

"Here also was produced Godfrey, who gave the quadrant to the mariner, and at a later period Ottinger, who gave the 'life car' for seamen in distress.

"Here, through John Downey, was given to Pennsylvania the school system now in general use throughout its territory.



"Here first in Pennsylvania was issued a petition, signed by 250 of its inhabitants, urging the adoption of the Federal Constitution."

Besides these facts, many others will appear in these pages, giving abundant proof that our town is certainly deserving the title "Historic."

Very fine German linen was also made here, perhaps the first in the country. As early as 1685 Robert Turner wrote to William Penn: "The Germans," referring to these early settlers, "are manufacturing linen finely."



ROBERTS' OLD MILL

The first grist mill ever established in Pennsylvania was the old Roberts Mill, on Church lane, erected in 1683 by Richard Townsend.

Here Gilbert Stuart, the great artist, lived when he executed the historic portrait of Washington, now in the Atheneum of Boston. Of all the portraits of the "Father of His Country," this one, made in Germantown, is most popular and most copied.



The very battle of Germantown, which occurred October 4, 1777, has contributed its share to make the town historic. No American history would be complete without it. In every public school of our land the pupil learns about it. True, some think it did not amount to much. The loss of eighteen hundred men on both sides, in the space of three hours, may not count for much in modern warfare. In the days of "Seventeen seventy-seven," however, considering all the circumstances, it was a hard-fought and



KEYSER HOMESTEAD

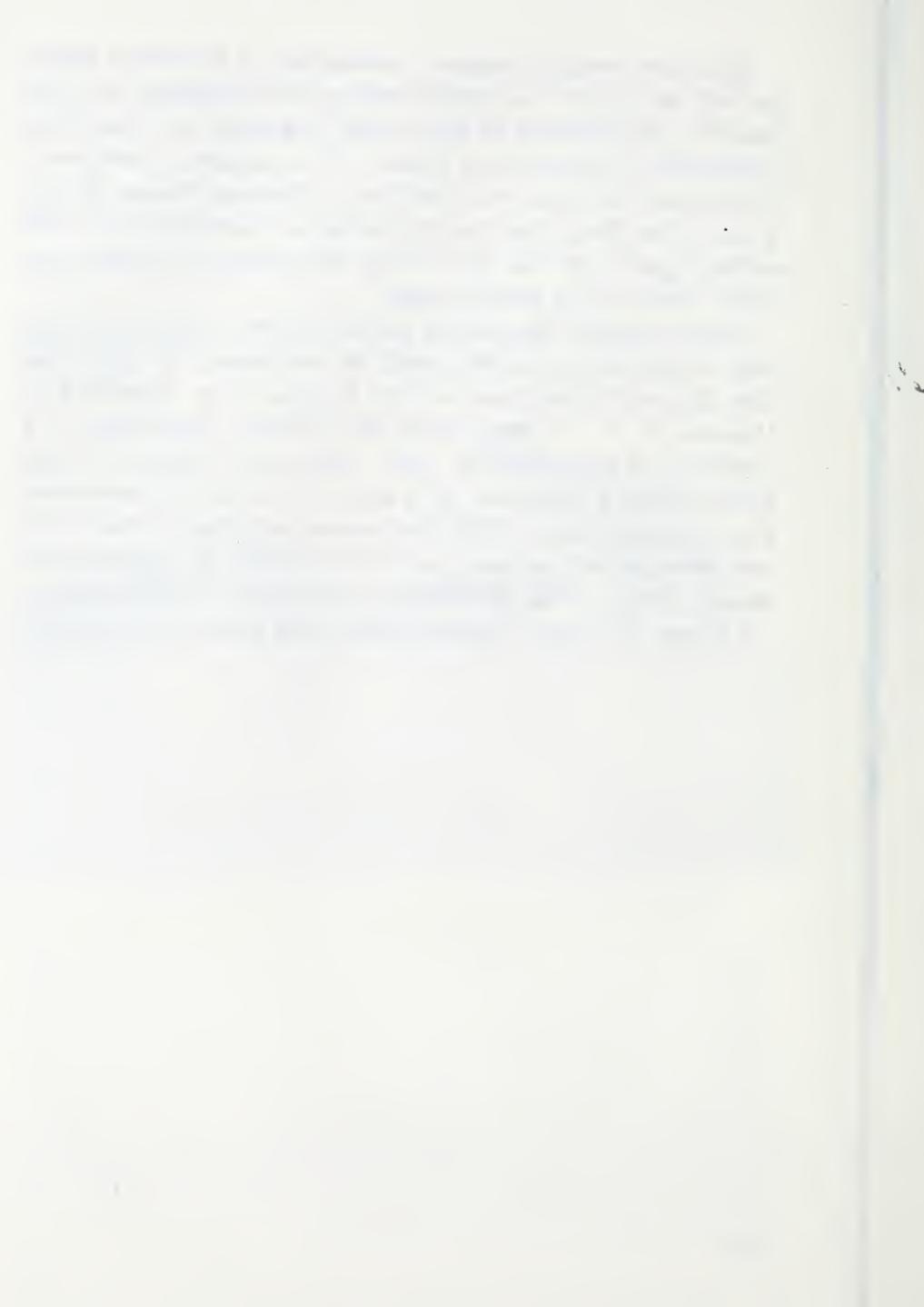
MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE

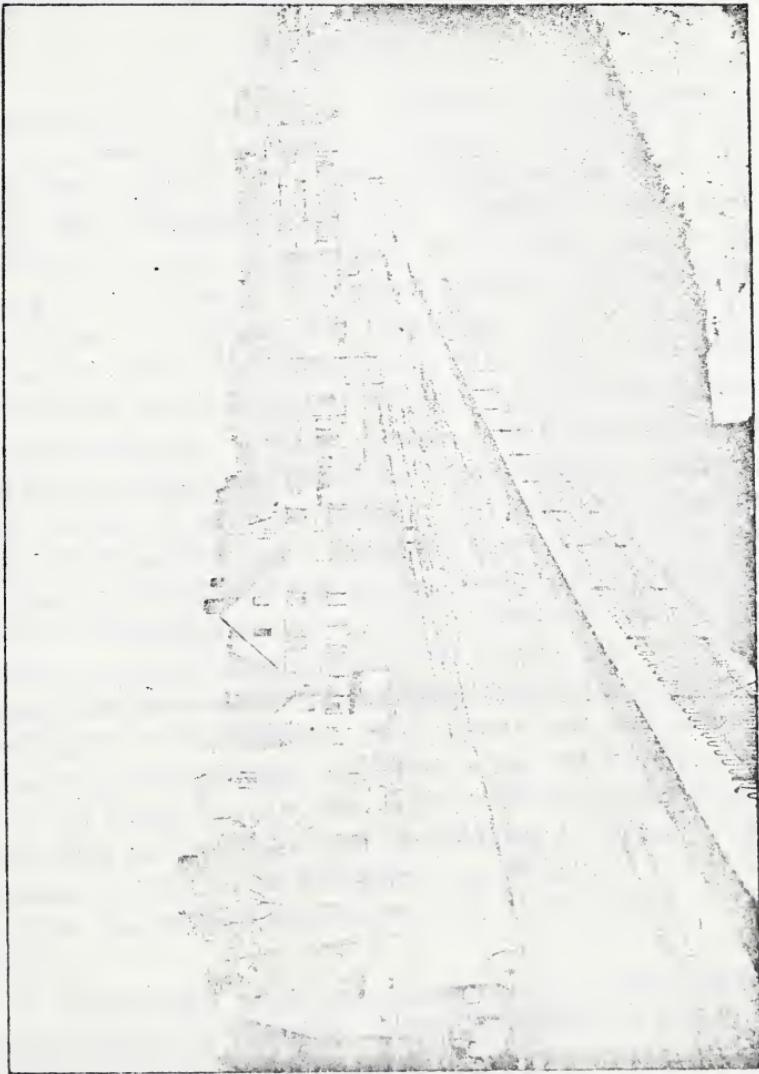
terrible battle. I know it was a defeat, and our battle monument in Vernon Park commenmorates a defeat, but Bunker Hill monument in Boston does the same. Defeats sometimes, however, prepare the way for succeeding victories. As in the case of Bunker Hill so also it was in Germantown. The very ground around the Chew mansion, as well as the old house itself, and other important points in the vicinity, are thrillingly historic. They have a world-wide as well as a local fame.



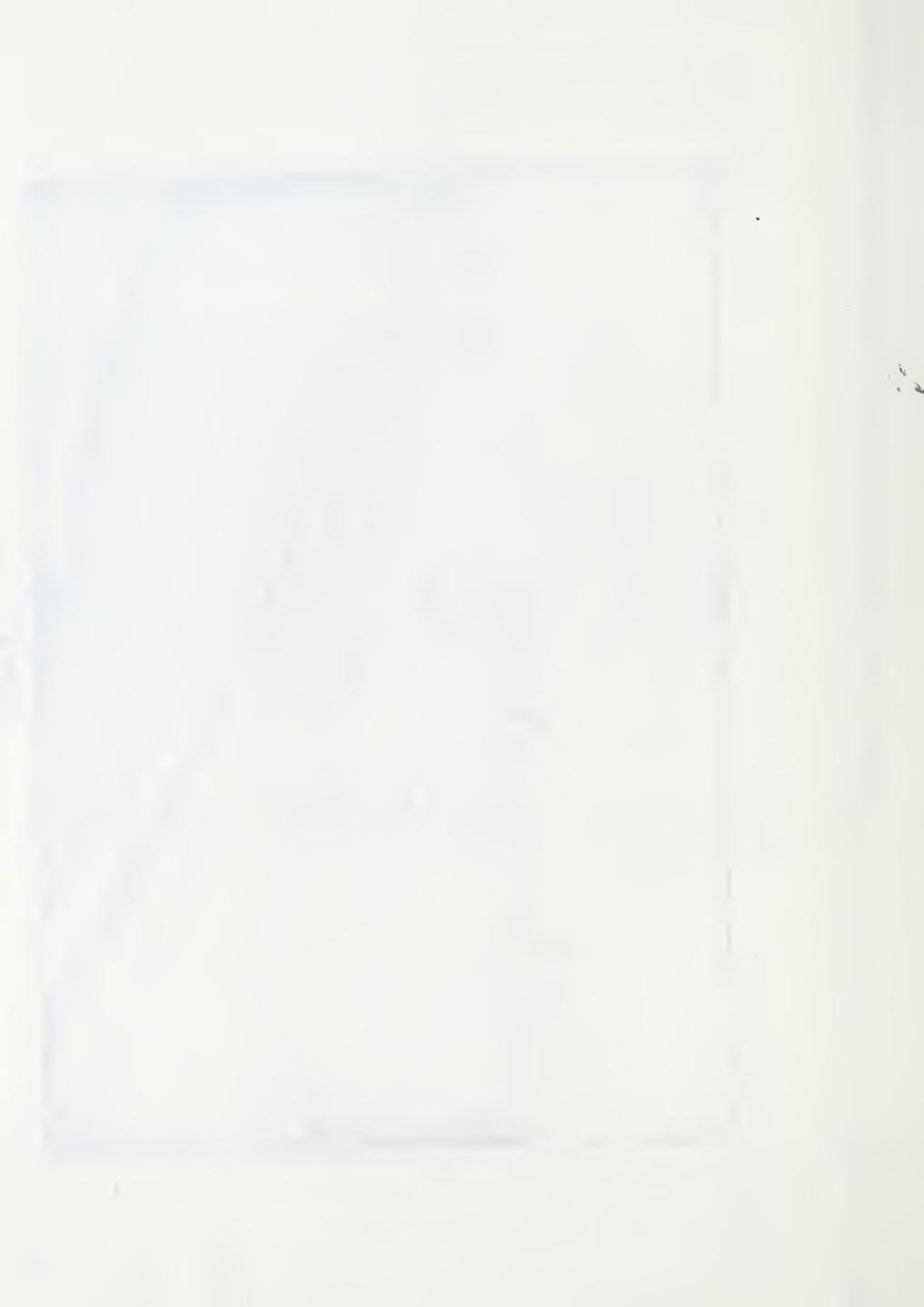
The most widely adopted confession of Christian faith, as well as church covenant, among the Baptists of this country, and perhaps of the world, is known as "The New Hampshire Confession of Faith." The author of both confession and covenant was the Rev. J. Newton Brown, D. D., a man who lived, died and is buried in Germantown. His solitary grave, at the side of the First Baptist Church, on Price street, is an historic spot.

I have recently discovered another laurel, which is a valuable contribution to the credit of our town. In 1767, the first Baptist Association in New England was organized at Warren, R. I. It was called the Warren Association. I attended its centennial in 1867. This now celebrated body had its first Confession of Faith printed in Germantown. Its title page reads: "The Sentiments and Plan of the Warren Association, printed in Germantown, by Christopher Sower, 1769." This document was on sale in Philadelphia, "in sheets, for seven coppers apiece, and bound, 15 coppers."





PELHAM



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# BEAUTIFUL GERMANTOWN

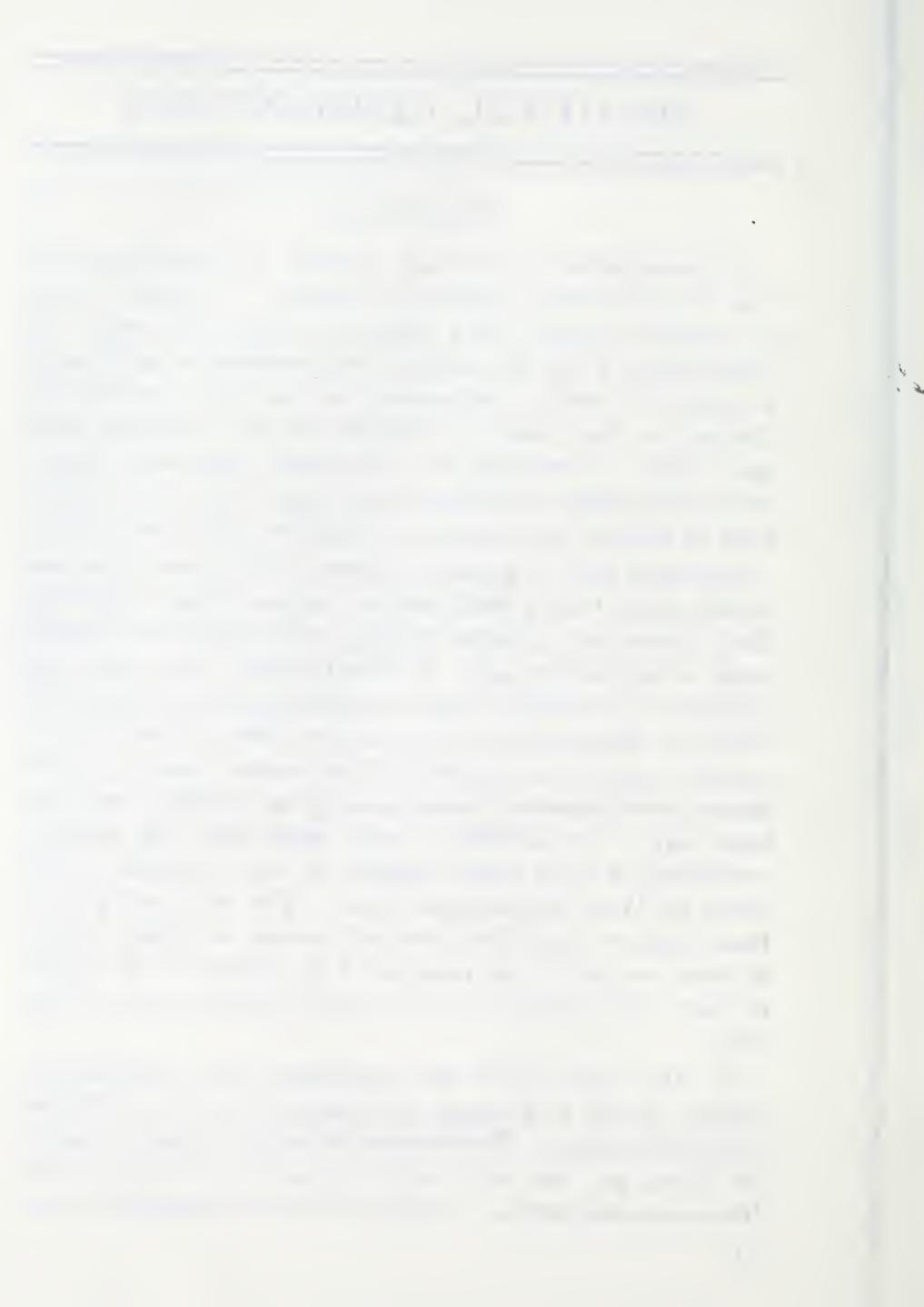
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## CHAPTER II.

A distinguished writer has spoken of Germantown as "the most beautiful suburb in America." Perhaps I may be specially partial, but I believe he spoke the truth. In March, 1857, I left this home of my boyhood to enter upon a course of study, preparatory to my life's great work. During the five years of student life my vacations were spent here. Excepting for occasional visits after that it was not my place of residence until 1904, when I was called back to take up an important enterprise within its borders.

Here and there I greeted citizens, well known upon our streets more than a half century ago—stalwart, vigorous, finely preserved, splendid looking, even amidst the passing years of advancing age. At other times I met sons and daughters, to manhood and womanhood grown, bearing the names or lineaments, and sometimes both, of an honored ancestry, long since passed to their eternal bourne, whose names were household words among the people in my boyhood days. Occasionally I came upon one and another, reminding of days spent together in the old public school house on West Rittenhouse street. The boys and girls of those days are the elder men and women of to-day. Many of these are still to be recognized by gleams of the youthful face, yet preserved, even in these zenith years of their lives.

In other cases, sons and daughters have succeeded to parents' places in business, the home circle, social life and religious avenues. Everywhere, however, stranger names and forms are met with, who command our respect, confidence and admiration. Amidst all this environment of inci-



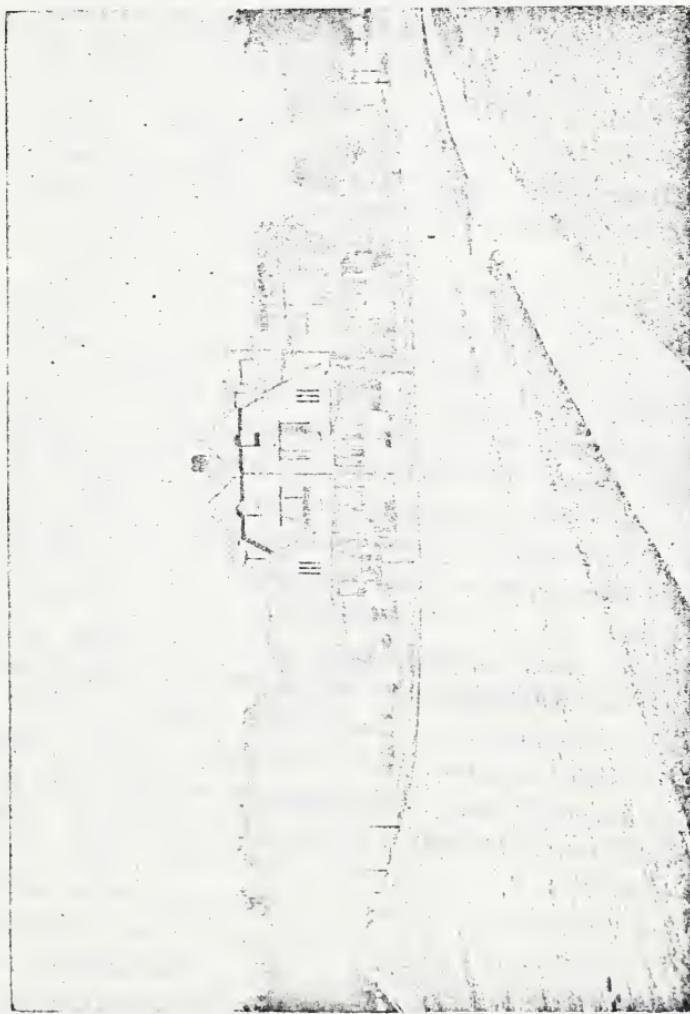
dent, personal interest, memory and change, I find myself constantly exclaiming, "Beautiful Germantown, and never more beautiful than at the present time!"

Of course, if you are not looking for the beautiful, but the reverse, you will find much here that is anything and everything except attractive. This will be the case everywhere. To a practised eye, however, to one looking only for that which can be admired, days and days can be spent gratifying this desire to the highest degree. We know whereof we affirm in this matter.

The structures which antedate the American Revolution and carry one back in thought to Continental and Colonial days are certainly objects of beauty, even in their very quaintness, not to speak of the added sanctity from their association with distinguished personages or noted incidents of the past. The old Dunkard and Mennonite meeting houses, the Academy building with its historic bell, on School lane; the Morris Mansion, opposite Church lane, identified with George Washington; the Chew House, allied with the battle of Germantown, as well as many another ancient edifice, have about them a charm which is pleasing to the eye and gratefully suggestive of the past. Some of the homes of the historic families of the town, in their preserved neatness and continued plainness, are full of attractiveness to the admirers of the antique and unique, while other residences now falling into decay, have a beauty about even their wreck and ruin, because of the honored and cherished, who once lived within their walls.

Nor will this spirit of appreciation and admiration be diminished by a visit among the churches, philanthropic institutions, schools and other features by which the town is honored. Pass through the grounds of the venerable St. Luke's Episcopal Church, observe how well they are kept, then look upon the stately buildings of the entire plant, and almost involuntarily the word *beautiful* escapes your lips.





SUBURBAN ROAD



Cross Germantown avenue to the opposite side and pass through the enclosure of the Friends' Meeting house, take in the varied buildings, the great old trees, quietly meditate upon the entire scene and you will ejaculate, "Is not this beautiful even in its simplicity?" Give equal attention to the First Presbyterian, First Methodist, Second Baptist, St. Michael's Lutheran, St. Vincent's Catholic, the Reformed Episcopal, the Unitarian, yea, all the churchly structures of the place, some large, others small, some more pretentious and others more plain, and lines of beauty will be recognized all about them.

No one can look upon the many public and private institutions of Germantown, representing noble charities, the highest type of true philanthropies and the very best in their scientific scope, without a conscious pride in the very beauty of their construction and environment, as well as in the purpose and method of their conduct. Take in Vernon Park, the park-like entrance to the Town Hall, our splendid and substantial educational structures, our unostentatious civic buildings, many of our stores and mercantile blocks, if you are looking only for the beautiful, in the true spirit of a just appreciation, these objects will not deteriorate your estimation of the beautiful in the town.

Visit Ivy Hill, Northwood, the National Cemetery and other similar enclosures; there, too, the love of the beautiful will find encouragement in many lines of commendation. At some of the street crossings of our railroads are little spots, beautiful with flowers and closely-trimmed green sward, illustrative of taste and industry. The same decorative art is also displayed in the grounds of some of our manufacturing and other industrial establishments.

In what may be specially entitled new Germantown, however, the beautiful seems to reign more lavishly, intentionally and elegantly. Whether we take into account the graceful in architecture, the high degree of characteristic



excellence in landscape, or the qualities which constitute the harmony so essential to the truly esthetic in beauty, evidences in every direction will greet us, from the numerous blocks of small or larger homes to the more spacious and stately villas of a goodly host of our citizens. Even a Ruskin, with all his taste for the beautiful, would find here in handsome homes, magnificent views, lovely lawns, fascinating drives, superb environment, daintily-arranged decorations, pretty adjustments, enough to gratify his highest delight in that which is chaste, graceful and artistic, not to speak of many other localities and special streets of the town, where at every step the adornments and home arrangements will call forth adulation. Who can pass through that part known as Pelham, quietly gaze upon the ever-changing and wonderful delineations of architecture, as well as horticulture, its meandering avenues, varied elaborations and blendings of art and nature, without being impressed with the beauty of all? If Lord Kames could say, "A circle is more beautiful than a square, a square is more beautiful than a parallelogram," then here you have beauty crystalized in circle, square and most shapely formations as well as arrangements.

If the qualities which constitute beauty are pleasing to the sight and to the mind, then Germantown is rich indeed in these characteristics. A celebrated poet spoke of the Susquehanna as "the fair synonym of beauty," so we in our observant and appreciative admiration of the place love to think as well as speak of *Beautiful Germantown*.





SCENE IN PELHAM



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## EDUCATIONAL GERMANTOWN

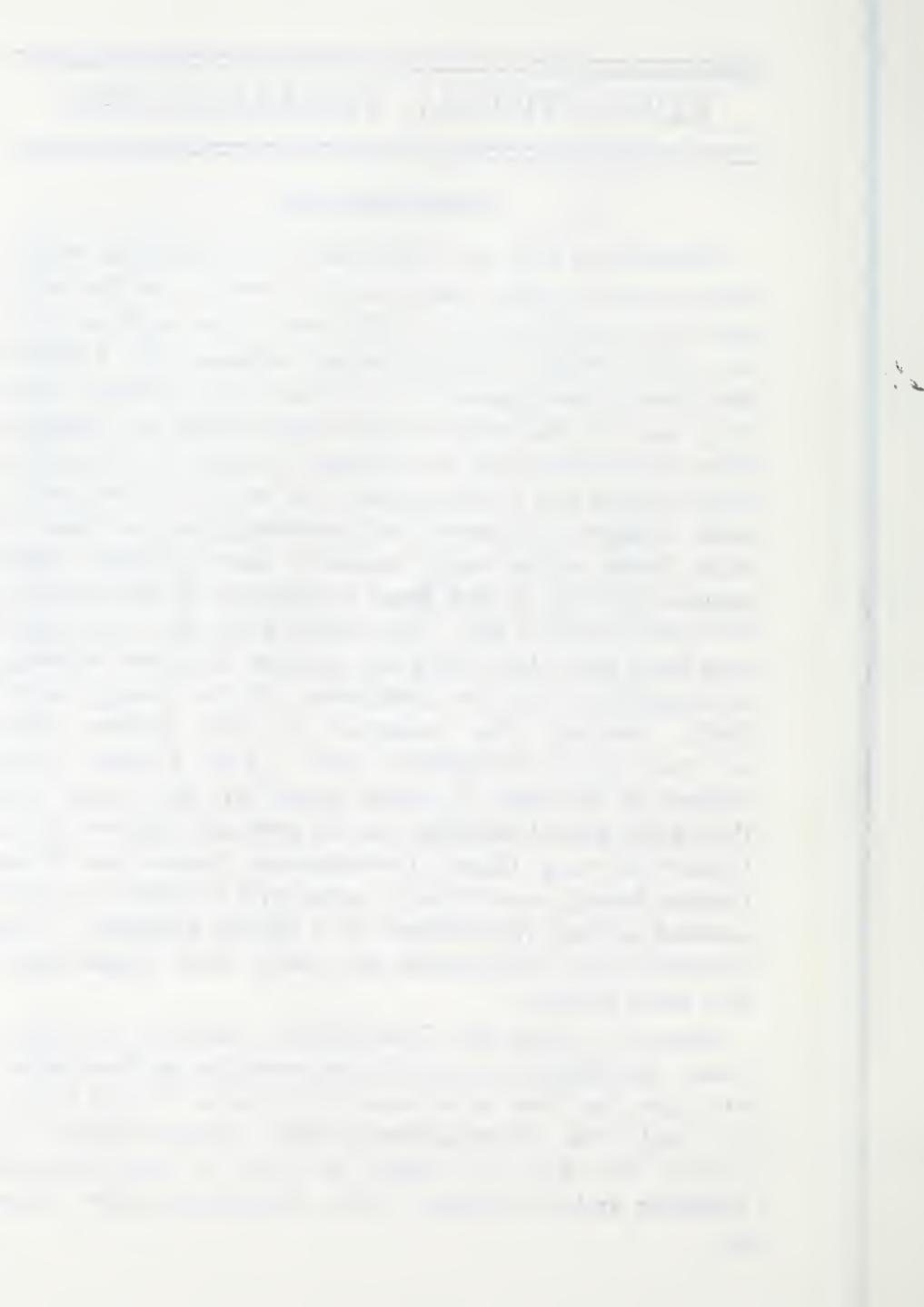
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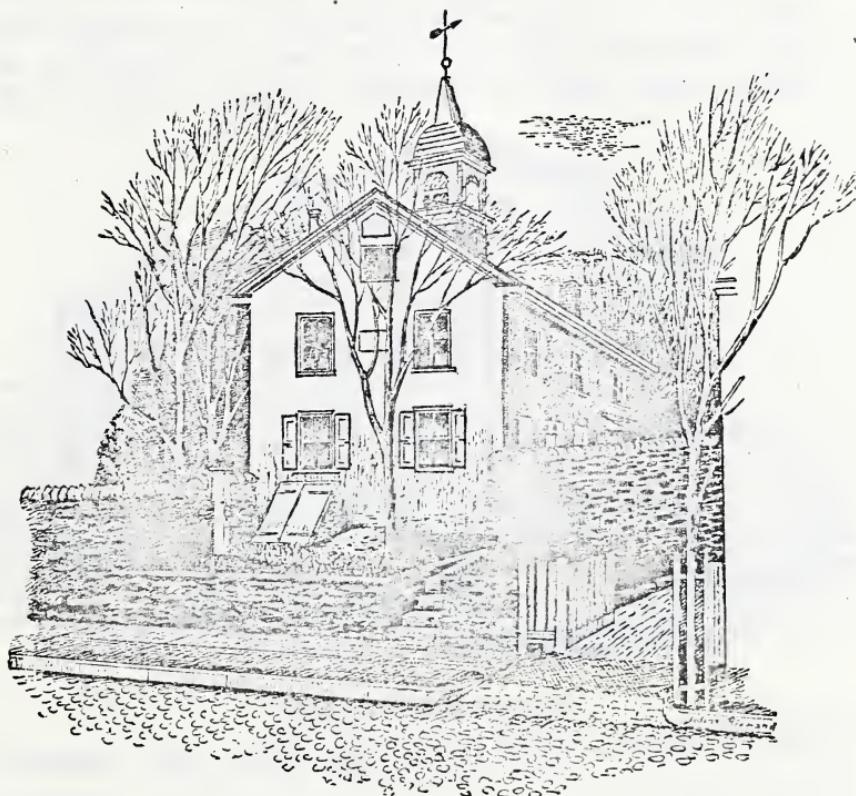
### CHAPTER III.

Germantown may not, technically, be as great an educational centre as some places in this country, yet the town has had no mean place in all the past in the work of mental culture, moral training, social influence and a broad educational development. A roll call of its citizens from 1683 down to the present time would reveal an immense class of educated men and women, trained in our public, high, normal and private schools, as well as in the academies, colleges, seminaries and universities of our own or other lands, while large numbers have pursued their courses of study in the great institutions of hard experience and practical life. Our people from the very beginning have been the friends and patrons of higher learning. Arrangements for the education of the young, especially, received due attention in the pioneer days of the town's formative state. The Friends were earliest in the field in these parts for this work, and their great school buildings on the grounds adjacent to the Quaker Meeting House, Germantown Avenue and West Coulter Street, are certainly a wonderful testimony to their interest in and appreciation of a liberal education. The Dunkards and Mennonites, too, were wide awake upon this same subject.

January 1, 1760, the Germantown Academy, on School Lane, was founded, and, with the exception of Revolutionary days, has been in existence ever since. It was originally called the "Germantown Union School House." It opened first with 131 pupils, of whom 61 were English speaking and 70 German. John Bringhurst, after whom



Bringhurst Street is named, and his brother, George Bringhurst, gave the land on which this Academy stands. All the details connected with the establishment of this school are highly complimentary to the people, as being the warm friends and earnest supporters of a liberal education. Its first teacher was David I. Dove, whose eccentricities and

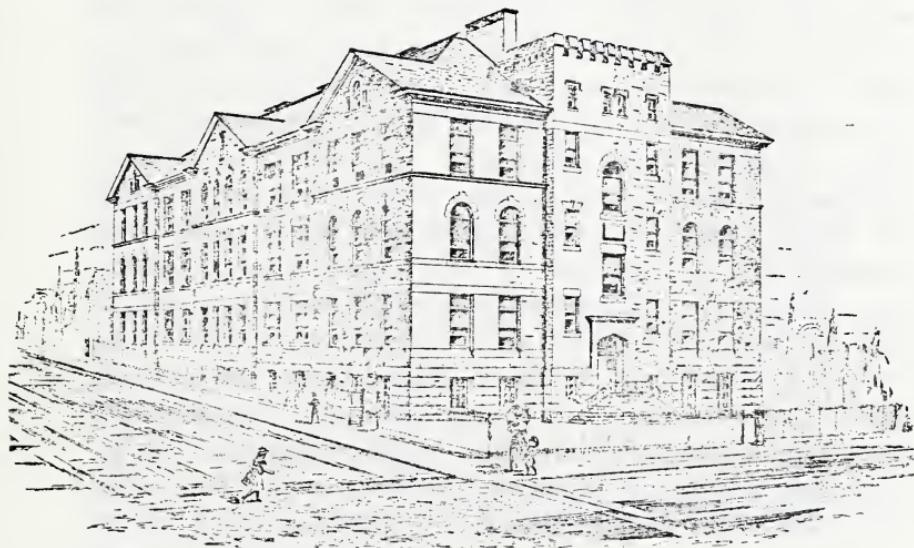


CONCORD SCHOOL-HOUSE

severities are wonderfully portrayed by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in the first volume of "Hugh Wynne." During the Battle of Germantown this building was used as a hospital. After the Revolution was over it was chartered by the State of Pennsylvania, in 1786, as "The Public School of



Germantown." The bell on this building was brought to Philadelphia in 1774 on the tea ship "Polly," which was not allowed to land, so it went back to England. When the war was over the ship returned and the bell was secured for the place it has since filled. The vane on the cupola, too, represents a crown, the royal insignia of England, which has never been changed. In possession of this institution is Washington's telescope used at the Battle of Germantown and other relics, while associated with the building are other incidents of local and national



FITLER PUBLIC SCHOOL

renown. This whole educational plant is itself an education.

It is a point favorable to the title of this article, in addition to what has been written, when the fact is made known that the first book on the subject of education ever published in this country was printed in Germantown in 1770 by Christopher Saur. The fact, too, that as early as 1754 the Germantown Library Company was in existence is a



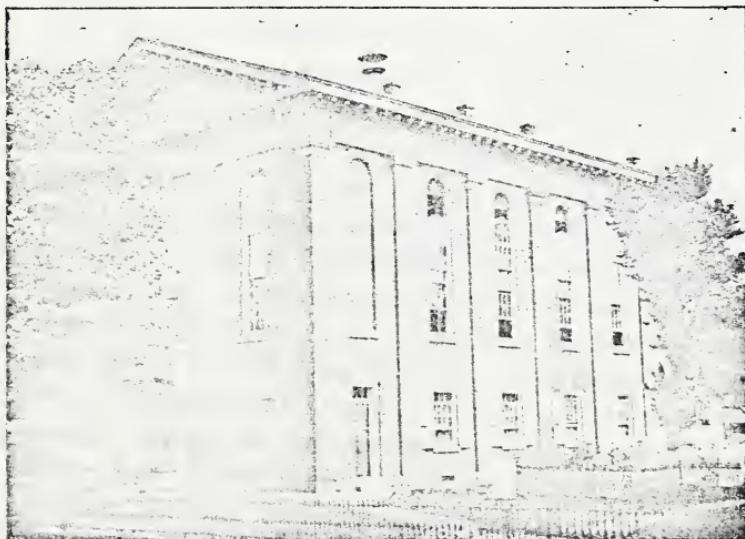
proof of the friendliness to the subject of a broad culture. This is further confirmed by the incident that the first portrait in oil painted in America was made in this town by Dr. Christopher Witt, and as early as 1739 the first newspaper in the German language ever printed on this continent was here, and no one will question the educating effect in those early days of such a paper.

The Concord School House was built in 1775. It was intended to accommodate the residents of upper Germantown, as the institution on School lane was too far away. Here large numbers have received their early education. Just why the name Concord was given to it is not known. The year of its foundation was when "the shot heard round the world was first fired" at Concord—the beginning of the American Revolution. The name of the ship, in which some of the first settlers came, was "Concord," so whether the school house was named after the ship or after the battle, or both, cannot now be decided. It was, however, a good name, and illustrated the fact that our citizens were in concord on the subject of education. The Site and Relic Society for some years occupied this building with its museum, and it is truly one of the great educating factors of this community, whose value increases with each passing year, and whose work will be appreciated more and more as the centuries go by. It is now housed in the old Wister home in Vernon Park.

Where the Lutheran Theological Seminary now stands once stood a noted boarding school, which in 1826 became "The American Classical and Military Institute," where the late celebrated General Meade, the hero of Gettysburg; General Beauregard, of the Confederate Army, and others of note, received their early military education. That building was demolished in 1846, and the present prosperous and efficient seminary doing its splendid work is certainly an important factor in the educational life of the town.



Many years ago we had located here the "Pennsylvania Manual Labor School," under the care of Dr. George Junkin, one of whose daughters became the estimable wife of the late "Stonewall" Jackson, famous in the Confederate Army. Dr. Junkin became president of Lafayette College in Easton in 1832. He also became president of Washington and Lee University in Virginia. Nor was he the only citizen of Germantown so capable as an educator as to be able to fill the president's chair of Lafayette, for Rev. Dr. Knox, for many years the honored pastor of the First Pres-



HAINES STREET M. E. CHURCH, NOW THE ALFRED C. HARMER PUBLIC SCHOOL

byterian Church, was also chosen to that position, which he filled for many years with great ability. While on this point I may refer to the fact that Rev. James Blair, the founder of the above-named church, was once elected to the presidency of Princeton University.

That celebrated educator, A. Bronson Alcott, once lived here. He came to take charge of one of our schools. Here his daughter, Louisa M. Alcott, was born November 29.



1832. She became the noted authoress of so many excellent books, that her name has become a household word wherever the educating influence of English literature is known and felt. The Masonic Hall occupies the site of her birthplace at the present time.

Space will not permit me to speak of the great educational work of our excellent public and private schools, of our Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations, of our business colleges, musical and other schools, of the remarkable institution for deaf mutes located here, of the parochial schools of the Roman Catholic Churches and their famous Seminary for higher education, with its valuable buildings and property on Chelten avenue.

I must, however, refer to an educational movement here in 1836, that at this day is rarely thought of, if it is not almost entirely forgotten. Then was formulated what was called the "Germantown Collegiate Institution," which had secured the use of the historic school buildings located on School lane. The Baptist denomination, then without a church in this town, was at the head of this new departure. The great Philadelphia Baptist Association by vote that year, "regarded the location of this institution at the interesting village of Germantown with lively satisfaction." Here was to be taught Hebrew, Latin, Greek, English, French and the Spanish languages by eminent and well-known instructors. The higher education, in all the branches, was to be accessible here, both academic, collegiate and theological. It was to become the great institution of higher learning under Baptist auspices in the Middle States. The school opened under very favorable conditions October 3, 1837, with Revs. Henry K. Green and William M. Collom at the head. A large number of students attended who have since made their mark in the commercial, professional and theological world. Had this been successful, what is now Bucknell University, located in Lewisburg,



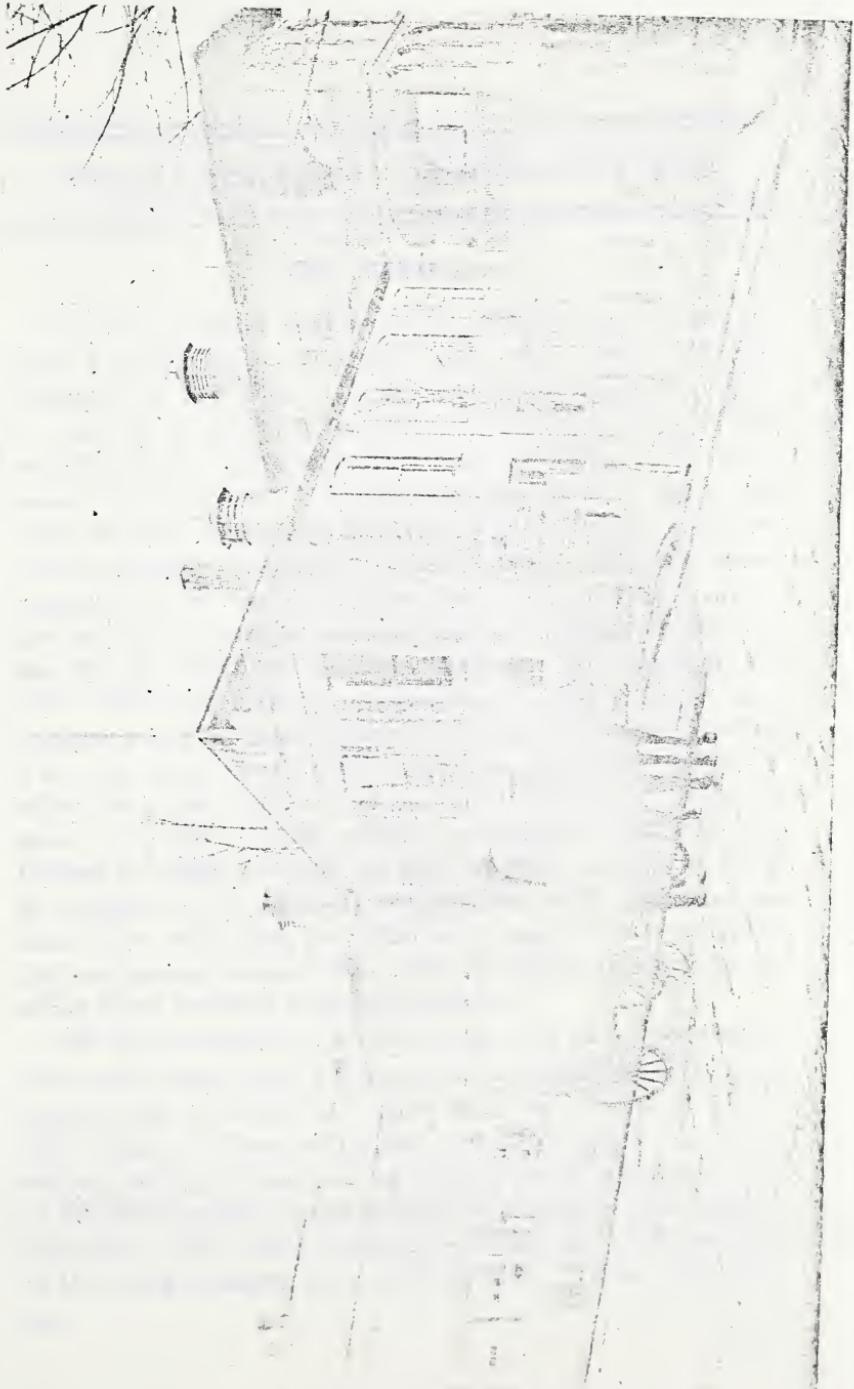
with its more than a million dollar property, annual attendance of nearly a thousand students, and its wonderful outlook for the future, would have been established in Germantown. That it was not located here has been regretted, more than once, by many in years that are gone.



ACADEMY BUILDINGS ON SCHOOL LANE



GEITMANTOWN HOSPITAL





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# PROFESSIONAL GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER IV.

The three learned professions are defined to be Theology, Law and Medicine. It would also seem that Pedagogy belonged to this class. In this article we shall so regard it, making a quartette in lines of thought and practice, entering into what is comprehended by the term "Professional Germantown." A study of the history, lives and work of the clergymen, lawyers, physicians and teachers who have made Germantown their home, or who have been identified with the life of the place, give to the town a professional prominence which makes it notably worthy of the title of which we are now writing. No catalogue of those who have made for themselves a name in these professions has ever been attempted or kept; to mention even a few by name in each line, therefore, would be unjust to others of equal renown. Hence in this article we shall speak in general terms, without giving individual names, though for every position we take we have persons in mind to support all we say. If readers, too, will take time to think there will come into their mind many in one or all of the professions named who have achieved either local or wider fame for their accomplishments.

Call up the names of all the clergymen of all denominations who have lived here and been identified with their special line of work for more than two hundred years. How many of these will stand out prominently as representing ability of mind of the highest grade, nobility of life of the finest quality and notability of character unsurpassed anywhere. The early ministers, during the first century of the town's career, were marked men. Those who were



in the pulpits fifty or more years ago were the peers of any in the country, nor has there been a diminution of fitness and equipment in later years. Take each one of the many churches in Germantown, go over the list of the men who have served in the pastorate, and a goodly host of the really great will pass in review. This has been substan-



SAMUEL HARVEY, THE BANKER

tiated in that so many from here have been called to higher positions, requiring recognized scholarship, marked ability for organization and positive fitness for important service. Our townspeople may point with honest pride to the clergymen of all denominations who have lived and labored here.



Nor is it uncomplimentary to this pride and appreciation that we have in Germantown, not only a theological seminary preparing specially for the work of the ministry, but also at least one splendid Home, where ministers, when the great activities of life are over, may rest in the later years without fear of want or neglect. The productions from the pens of many who have lived and wrought in Germantown have been an enrichment to the religious literature of the



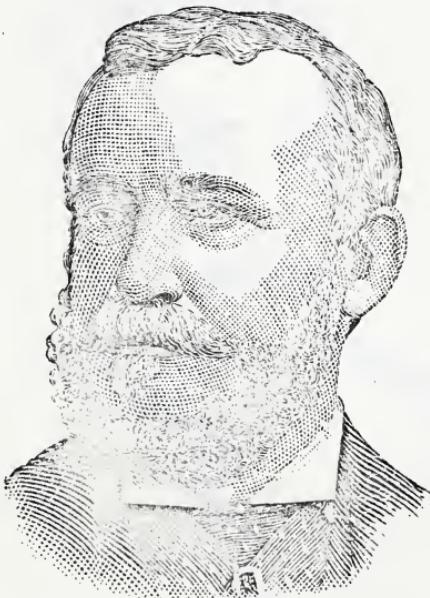
REV. CHARLES KARSNER, M. D.

times, to historic data of vast importance, and to the solution of questions which have agitated the theological world. These documents gathered into one place would be a surprise to those unacquainted with the facts.

Much of what we have said of ministers might also be repeated of the able lawyers, prominent jurists and distinguished judges who have made Germantown their home. Many of these were born here and have honored the place



of their nativity by their name and fame. Details relative to some of our town's most noted barristers might seem invidious, but they are a part of our history and have added their share to the glory of the place. Their opinions as given in office, court and press have had weight in securing decisions of vast moment to many an enterprise. In the colonial homes, in the spacious residences, in the sequestered mansions, as well as in the more unpretentious abodes



HON. LEWIS C. CASSIDY

these have quietly lived. Often have their abilities made them sought out men for positions of honor, trust and great civic importance, as well as for the performance of duties involving mental grasp, peculiar tactfulness and a wide knowledge of affairs. This beautiful, historic and educational town has had a peculiar charm for many of these as their place of residence. Here they have wrought well and proved themselves to be worthy followers of Blackstone.



Relative to the physicians of Germantown, where shall we begin to even testify of their skill along lines, as specialists in surgery, in the practice of medicine, in diagnosing disease, in prescribing and applying the remedies used.



THOMAS F. BETTON, M. D.

In the all-round work, too, of the regular family physician, what marked ability they have displayed. How many, whose friendship these have won and retained, could rise and testify in proof of all this. For some of the old physi-



cians of the town, who long ago ceased their earthly practice, we retain the profoundest regard for and recognition of their sterling ability, as well as an appreciation for the confidence reposed in them. From the very first letters of the alphabet to the very last, names occur to us, gratefully treasured in many a home for the splendid outcome of their watchfulness, wisdom and efforts. Nor need any shame come to our faces as we go over the roll of the medical men and women resident and practising in the town at the present time. Some of the first names of prominent citizens in Germantown to-day recall noted physicians, after whom they have been named, doctors who once moved among throngs of admiring and confiding patrons.

Our splendid Germantown Hospital, with its widening fame for skill, service and success, added to the merit of the medical staff of the town, past and present, all combine to adorn Professional Germantown.

One or two other facts in this connection are further confirmatory of our subject. Here was issued the very first medical diploma ever given in this entire country. This was in 1738. Its recipient was John Kaighn, of Haddonfield, N. J., and Dr. Christopher Witt was the man who bestowed it. It is claimed that Dr. Adam Kuhn, in 1768, entered upon the work of teaching *materia medica* and botany. He was the first person in this country to begin this line and he was born in Germantown. These are only samples of what might be added were all the facts accessible or in hand relative to the details in many a physician's life and practice hereabouts.

When we come to speak of those who have lived or do live here, who have been or are teachers in our schools, public or private, as well as professors in higher institutions of learning, words fail us to set forth our exalted ideas of their ability and worth. From the teacher in the earliest primary class on up through the several grades to those who have



been at the head of these schools and still on through all the branches of the High, Normal, College, University and Seminary courses, what accomplished men and women come into view. Their moulding, culturing influence and



PRINCIPAL WILLIAM KERSHAW

work are beyond compute. Fortunate, indeed, we have been for the teaching ability here displayed and possessed. Then, too, the literature, conduct of pedagogy, have been



made the debtors by what these teachers have written and formulated to advance better methods of instruction, research and educational advantages. Many professionals, along the lines comprehended in this article, have made their home in Germantown, while their real work called

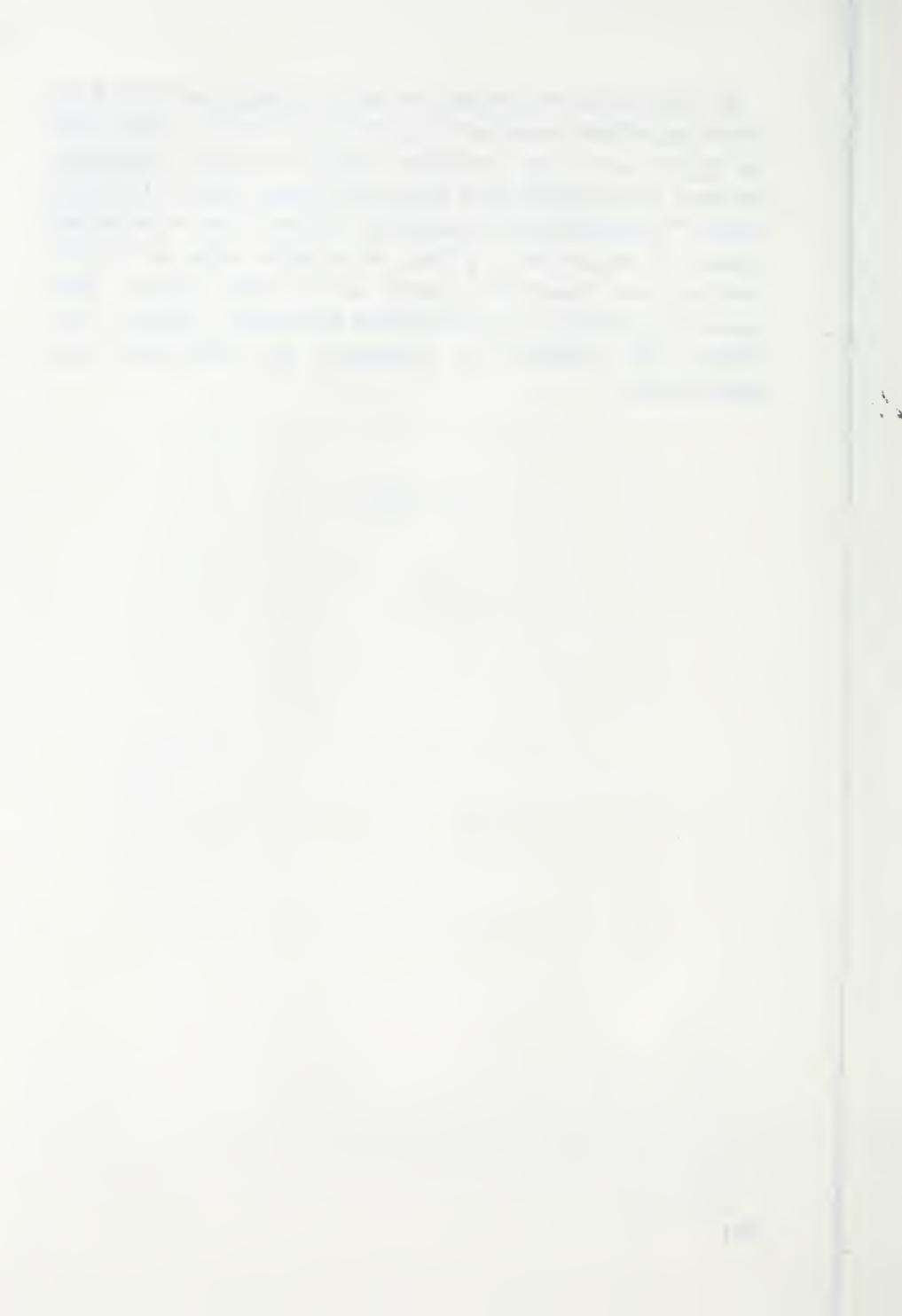


ROBERT THOMAS, ESQ.

them elsewhere. For these classes, as well as others, Germantown has always been a desirable place of residence. Its air, its quiet, its environment, its accessibility, its moral atmosphere and social status have had their attractive influence.



In conclusion, we declare no better clergymen have been found anywhere, no abler lawyers ever lived, no more skillful physicians ever practised, and no more competent teachers ever taught than those who have lived in Germantown. "Professional Germantown," then, is no meaningless name. It recognizes a galaxy of notables who, in the two hundred and twenty-five years of our local history, have made the quartette of professions honorable, efficient, proficient and sufficient to command our admiration and appreciation.



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## PROGRESSIVE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER V.

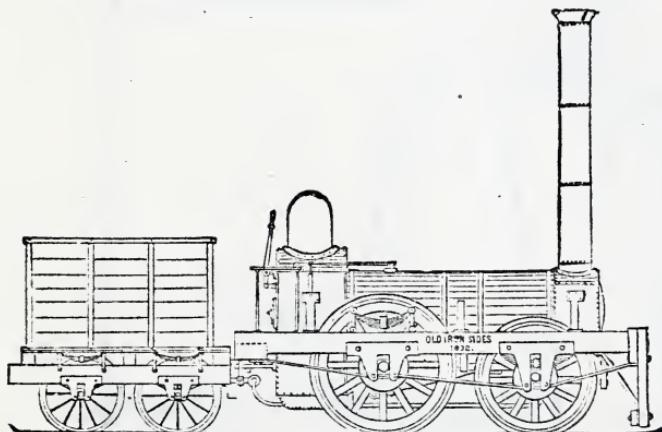
Ever and anon we meet with those who speak of Germantown as slow, rutty, unaggressive, a relic of the past. Nothing is more unwarranted than such an opinion. There is here a wondrous regard for the past, and worthily so, too. Such a past, as is ours, is something to be proud of. It cannot and ought not to be ignored. There is also a marvelous enthusiasm in the present for the future—a characteristic which has not been absent in the years agone. Comparing this year with the last, or this decade with the preceding one, we may not see much advance; but contrast the town of a century ago with its present status, or think of it as it was fifty years ago, and view it at the present time. A hundred years ago, with here and there an exception, its residences simply lined the Main street for about two miles in length, and what a street it was for mud and dust at certain seasons of the year! Now how changed, with houses—fine ones, too—in every direction for miles and miles, with well paved and sightly thoroughfares.

A few incidents covering the last half century will more fully illustrate the great progress the town has made. When, with his father, William Spencer, the late Charles Spencer began his work as a manufacturer in this town, only three trains a day ran between Germantown and the city. To miss a train then meant considerable. Not ready sometimes with his hosiery goods, which he sold in the city, to take the morning train, and unable to wait for the next one, he would walk all the way to the city, carrying his goods upon his back. Contrast our present great manufacturing interests and splendid facilities for travel with those days and the fine progress will appear.



When, in 1857, I left Germantown to begin my studies at Lewisburg, in this State, I started from an old shed depot at Germantown avenue and Price street, at 6 A. M., on a single car that ran by gravity, without a locomotive, all the way to Ninth and Green streets. At Fisher's lane we came to a full stop to take on several passengers, and it was necessary for some to get out and give the car a push in order to start it on its way again. There certainly is nothing like this now.

In those early days the dead were frequently carried by the pall bearers upon their shoulders from house to grave.

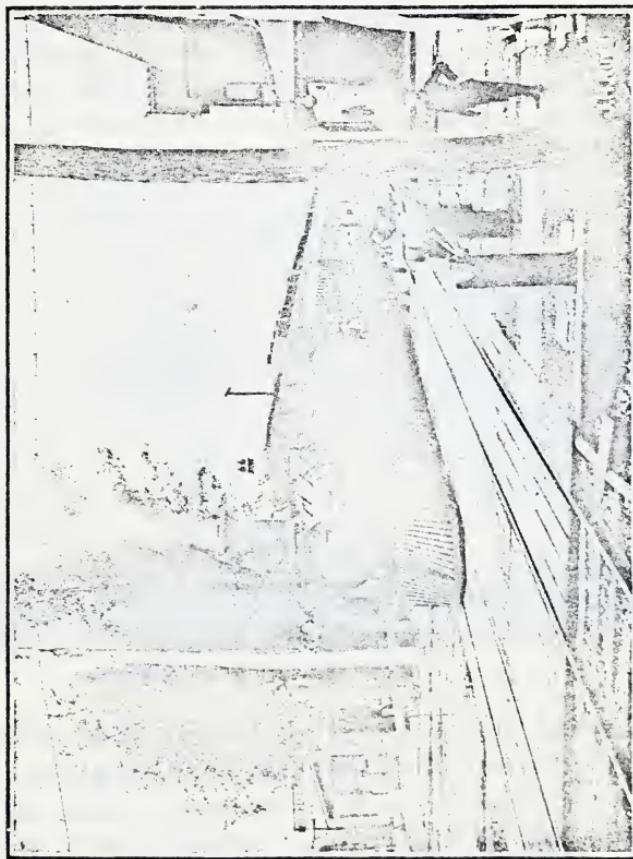


"OLD IRONSIDES" LOCOMOTIVE, PHILADELPHIA AND GERMANTOWN RAILROAD

I have often in my boyhood days seen such processions moving along our streets. The body of my own father, Charles W. Spencer, was thus borne in 1855 from his late home on Church lane to the Methodist graveyard on Haines street. What a contrast with the present bearing away of the dead. Surely in this there has been a commendable progress.

In the early fifties the late Peter Hinkle alone served the people of the town every weekday morning with the "Public Ledger." Then the late Hillary Krickbaum was the





MODERN TRAIN, CHELTEN AVENUE, PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD



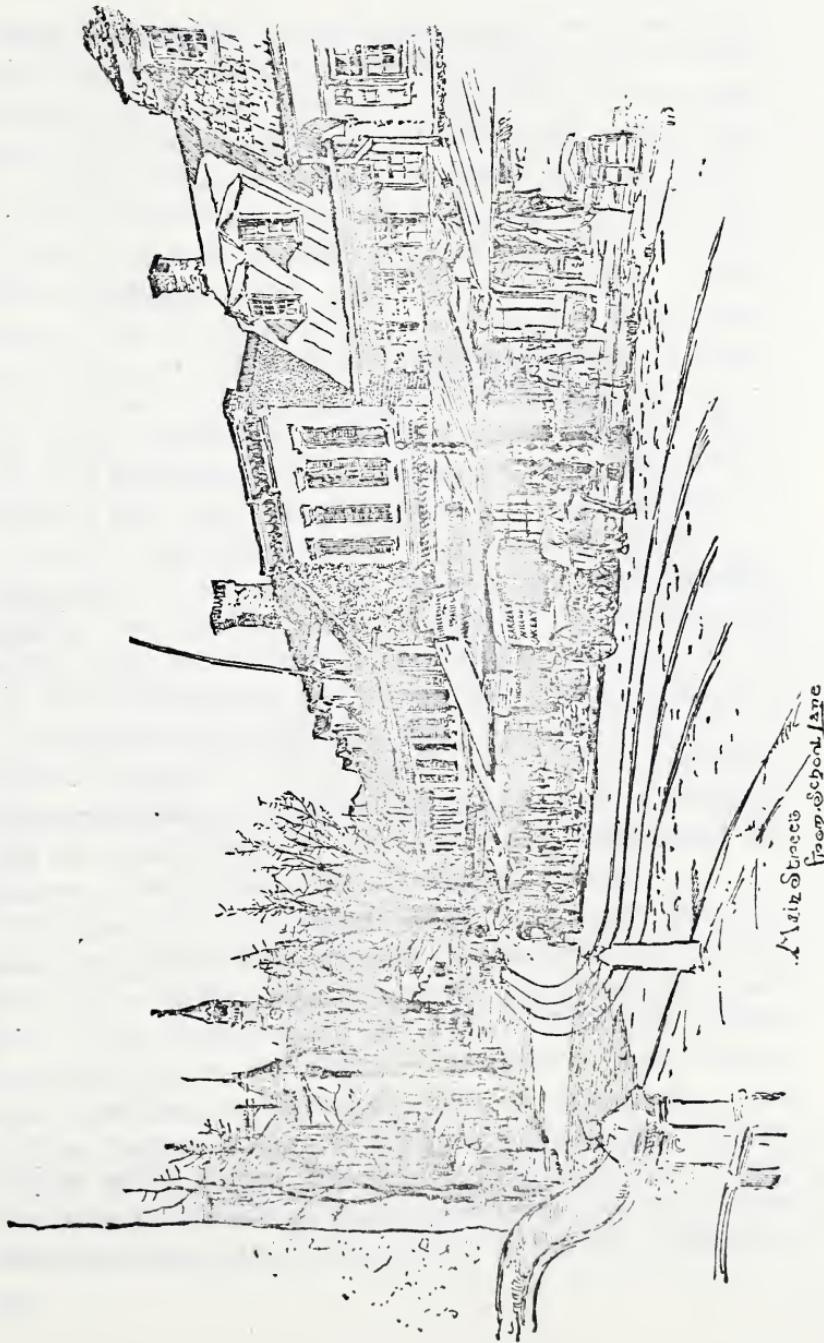
only conductor on the Germantown Railroad, until his son John was chosen to assist him. Then the late John Markley was the only engineer on the road, and the small engine, with one little driving wheel, named "The Eagle," was the only locomotive to do all the work on this branch. The second one was the "Fort Erie." Markley ran the trains back and forth in the morning and afternoon. In the middle of the day he handled the freight and coal between the "old Reading Railroad" at Nicetown and Germantown. When one recalls the old four-horse stage coaches that used



MODERN ROW OF HOUSES

to run down the Main street from here and from Chestnut Hill in the morning and then back again in the evening, and now notes the trolley cars every few minutes down Germantown and Wayne avenues, and by way of the great crosstown lines on Chelten avenue, also down Ridge avenue, York road, Fifth street, Frankford avenue and Richmond street, besides the four or more steam trains an hour on the Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads, surely the progress is indeed wonderful.





Main Street is  
from a sketch 1870



When one thinks of the stores along the Main street simply from Bringhurst street to Washington lane in those days, and trace them now, the impression of our great progress will be strengthened. A few occur to my memory: J. and J. Gates, at Bringhurst street; Naaman Keyser, at Indian Queen lane; William G. Spencer, opposite Cottage Row; Jones & Megarge, opposite the Quaker Meeting House; Senseman, near Armat street; Livezey's, where Vernon Park is now; John Rittenhouse, at Rittenhouse street; Freas, at Washington lane, interspersed with Musher, the baker; Rex, the druggist; Freddie Axe, "notions;" Mrs. Jones, "trimmings;" Bowman, the shoemaker; Brenholtz and Harkinsons, the confectioners, and a few others. Now how many they number and what a business they do, not only on this thoroughfare, but all over the town.

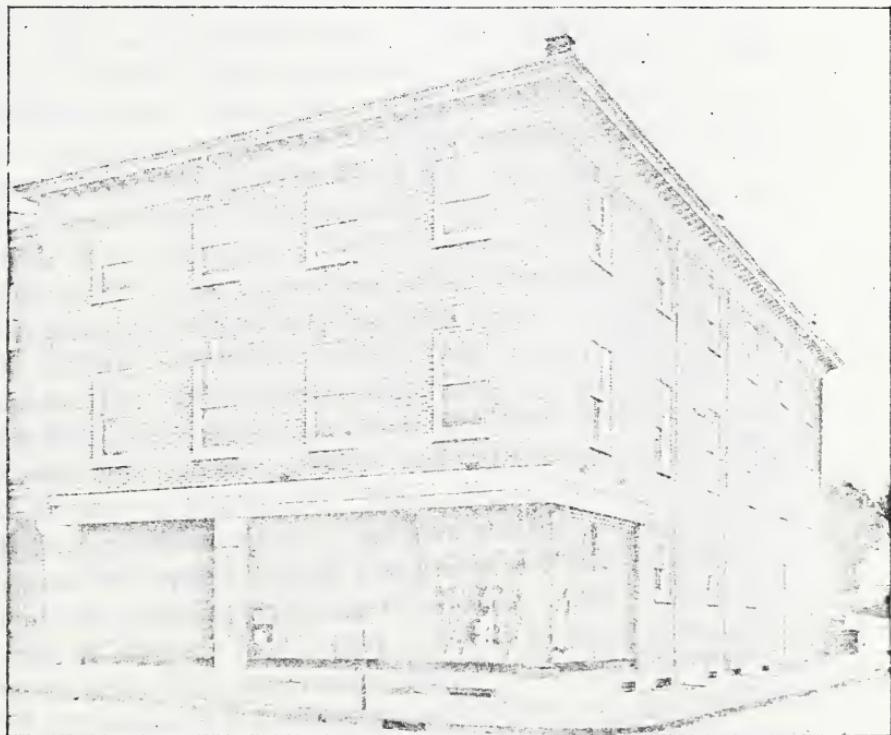
Contrast the home of the Germantown Bank, in 1850, opposite the Trinity Lutheran Church, its business, its wealth, with its substantial and slighty structure of to-day, its representative and strong financial character and its marvelous patronage: also that of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown, its humble beginning in that well-known one-story building, its limited business, with the stately home in which it is now housed and the immense reach of its status and business to-day.

But these lines of progress greet us in every direction. Recall the plain and unimposing church structures in those days of the Market Square, German Reformed (as it was then), First Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal, Haines Street Methodist, St. Michael's Lutheran, First Baptist, then worshiping in Fellowship Hall on Armat street; the Quaker Meeting House, the position of the Roman Catholic Church when Father Domenec was the solitary priest. Now take in the survey of the structures, not only of the above churches, but of many others which have grown up



or changed their environment in that time of all the denominations.

In those days "Carpenter's Place" was the one celebrated home, with its adjacent grounds, graced with the statues of the twelve Apostles. It was the one special attraction to which all visitors were taken. Now these attractions are



PRESENT DAY STORE

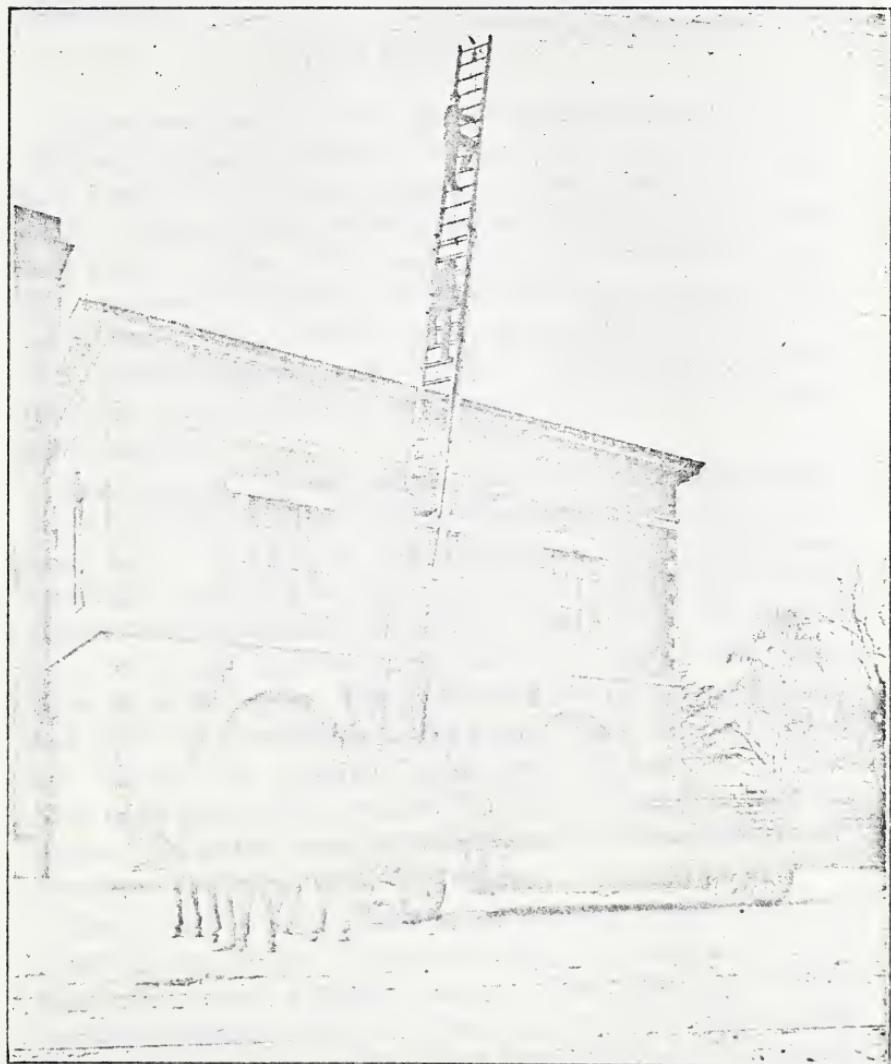
so numerous that whole days may be occupied in visiting them. Time was when to reach Manayunk, Roxborough, Falls of Schuylkill, Frankford, Holmesburg, Milestown and adjacent suburbs one either had to walk or go around by the city for a public conveyance. Now by the Midvale and



Chelten avenue trolleys these outlying points are easily accessible at any hour of the day or night.

Recall the days of the Volunteer Fire Department and contrast it with the present service, the early homes of the working people and their conveniences, with those of the present day, the building enterprises, methods, decorations, architectural arrangements, the days preceding the use of gas, when fluid, oil and candles were in common use, with our light and appliances now. How different our public school facilities then, as centred in the old building on Rittenhouse street with what we have to-day. Think, too, of our telegraph, postal and modern telephone accommodations, how much in advance of fifty years ago. Add to all this the increase of population, the immense expanse in value of all real estate. Surely a moment's careful thought will prove to the satisfaction of all reasonable minds that Germantown is truly a progressive town. It has made and is making wondrous strides. We have simply touched upon a few salient points illustrative of this progress, yet the field for observation along this same line is commensurate with the size, renown and entire scope of the place. Germantown is not slow. She is advancing with the steady, sturdy, get-there stroke. She may not rush at race horse or automobile speed, but she keeps ever and always at it. Her constant plodding has been her success. True, we may have citizens who are more aggressive and hustling than others, some also whom some may regard as standing in the way of all progress, yet above all and beyond all the old town deserves great honor for the fact that it has been so aggressive and progressive.





PRESENT DAY FIRE APPARATUS



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## INTERNATIONAL GERMANTOWN

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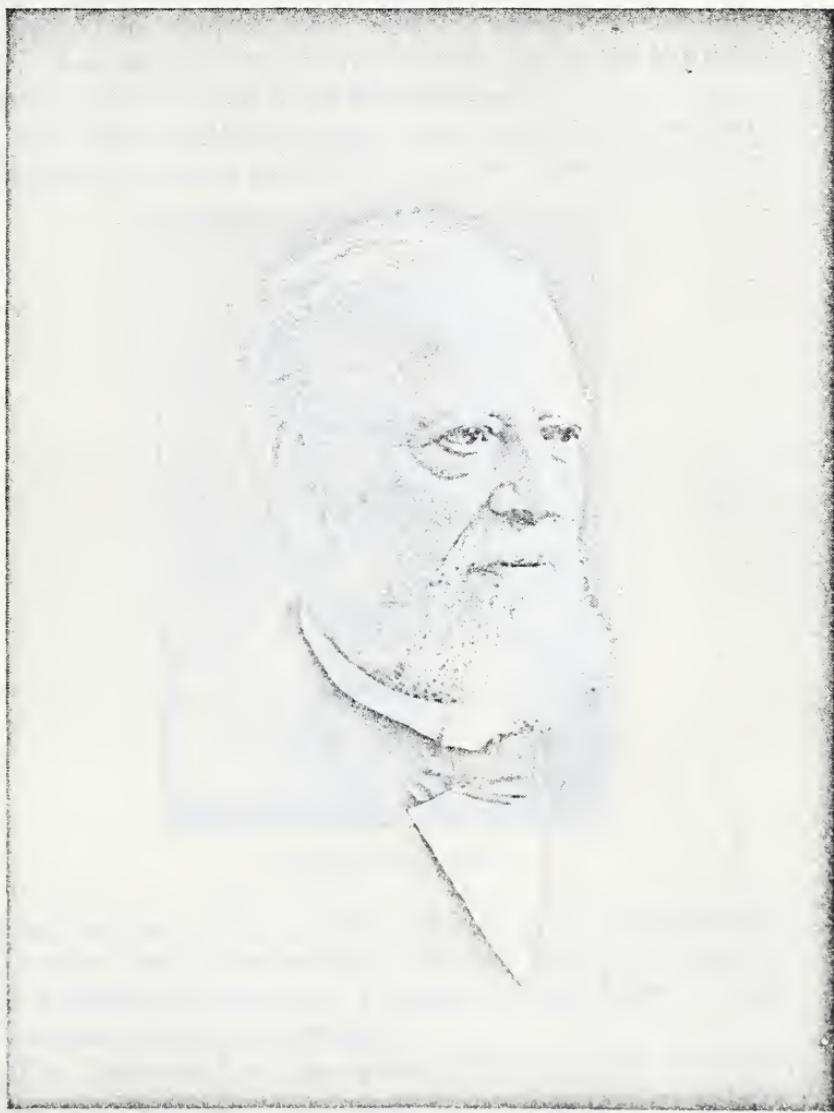
### CHAPTER VI.

The founders and first settlers of Germantown came from Germany—hence its name. In its earliest years the German was the dominating language. Since that time from various parts of the present German Empire many have here found a home. The preponderating elements of German character, therefore, entered into the formation and life of our people. Sturdy vigor, substantial conservativeness, reliable stability and a positive honesty were marked features, which had their moulding influence in the then plastic habits.

Vast numbers of our people, however, have come from other localities or have been the descendants of others who came here. A study of the map of the world and some familiarity with the history and residents of the place will confirm the fact that all the great nations of the earth have been or are represented in the makeup of those who have lived or do live here. The great divisions of the earth have had their representatives in this place. Asia, Africa, Oceania, Europe and America, have been the sources whence have come those who have dwelt here for a longer or shorter period. Of course some of the nationalities have been more dominant and prominent than others.

Every part of Great Britain has entered largely into the blood of our citizens. England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales have contributed a goodly host of those who have taken up their residence with us. From almost every shire of old England have come many, who here have found a home. Though of different brogue sometimes, indicating the part of the land whence they came, yet here, as the true sons and



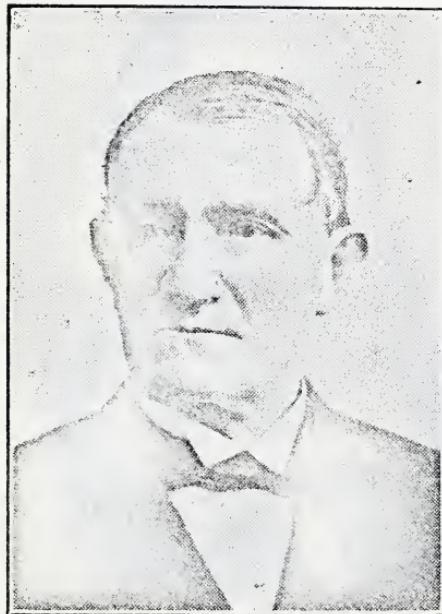


THOMAS MEEHAN



daughters of St. George, they have blended, and it has not been Yorkshire or Staffordshire or Leicestershire or any other shire that they have heralded as hailing from, but England, the land of their birth. Taking up their home here, they have put their lives into the life of the town and taken an honest pride in its advancement.

From the highlands, glens and noted towns of bonny Scotland, too, have come some of our most honored and



DAVID McMAHON

ablest citizens. With all the rigid integrity of the Scotch character they have become identified with the affairs of the community and made a place for themselves as most excellent and revered denizens.

The Emerald Isle has given largely of her sons and daughters, who have been adopted into our existence. The place of the Irish people in Germantown, especially for the



last half century and more, has been one which has made itself felt and recognized in almost every walk of life. Some of these earliest factors have passed away, but they exist and are potential in a posterity which has accumulated wealth, position, influence and a recognition not to be gainsayed. Even the little principality of Wales has made good contributions to our citizenship, and often representatives



CHARLES SPENCER

of the Cymry, still familiar with the Cymric, are met upon our streets and among our assemblies, ever proud of their nativity and yet still familiar with their mother tongue.

A roll of those from France who have here found a place for assimilation and contentment would not be a small affair. Italy, too, has made generous offerings of those who within our borders have taken up their abode. In fact, if one scans the map of Europe it will be found at one time

#### ANSWER: 2000000000

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or another nearly, if not every province, has been represented by one or more to the manor born, or their descendants, who have become a part of our local being. Russia, too, has been and is represented as abiding here.

It is evident, therefore, that the people of Germantown have been representatives of the nations of the earth. From all quarters of the globe they have come—Gentile and Hebrew, Protestant and Catholic, Heathen and Pagan, Agnos-



THEODORE SCHWERINER

tic and Christian, Malayan, Ethiopian, Indian, Mongolian and Caucasian. Surely the title of this chapter is not a misnomer. These varied nationalities have inter-blended or assimilated along rightful lines. As a result there has been formed a substantial composite of character, and, at the beginning of this twentieth century, we do not think so much of the sources of our local beginnings, but we do take an



honest pride in the outcome of all this international contribution to our life, habits, existence and station before the world. Under the moulding, fusing, mellowing, educating influence of our environment, all this which greets us to-day has been brought about and Americanized, so that in its life and patriotism no part of our great country has been more loyal and national to our Government than has been our own. We have been broad enough to take in the whole Republic—East, West, North and South—including of late, too, our Colonies, which have so recently become a part of the body politic.

Mingling, therefore, in our cemeteries and graveyards are the bodies of those who represent different parts of the world, while upon our streets and in our homes are those who came from, or are the descendants of, those who came from every quarter of the globe. Our international character, therefore, makes us broad enough to be in touch with the wide-wide world, so as to be adequate in our appreciation, just in our sympathy and judicious in our conclusions upon all questions of an international nature. Yet this breadth and touch does not take us out from the truest interest in and strictest devotion to our American nation, of which we are now either native born or adopted citizens. Some of the best blood of the nations of the earth courses through the veins of our people—true blood, pure, healthy, having in it the iron and the ozone of a moral quality that makes it count for a noble manhood, an honored womanhood and a bright childhood.

International Germantown! Yes, and we are justly proud that it is so. Yet as national as we are international. As thoroughly American as if our ancestry were all born here from time immemorial. In the world's great fabric of the temple of nations the part embraced by our own international Germantown is no mean portion, and to it all from every land may point with gratification and delight.



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## PHILANTHROPIC GERMANTOWN

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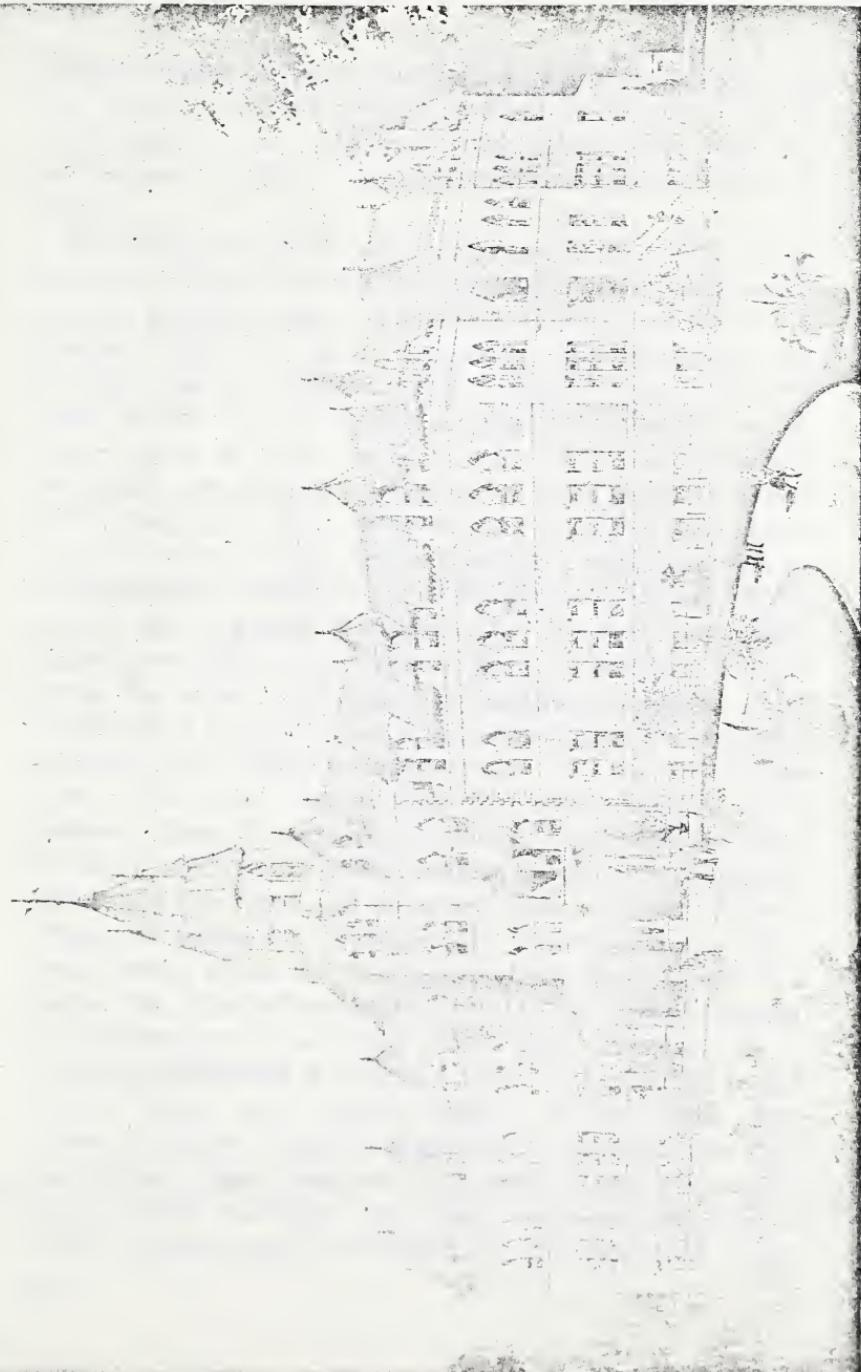
### CHAPTER VII.

No human pen can ever write down the individual, family, church, society, order or club philanthropies of the people of Germantown, simply because the facts are inaccessible. Could they be reduced to the written or printed page their amount and extent would be an amazement. In the past there have lived men and women who were the very embodiment of philanthropy, beneficent, benevolent, humane and charitable in the highest and broadest sense of those terms. Some of these philanthropies have been or are being administered with the utmost silence, unostentation and quiet, so that outside the donor and recipient no others are cognizant of the fact. Could all the details of this line of benevolence be known it would be very evident that Germantown would be well worthy the title at the head of this article.

So far, however, as organized philanthropy is concerned, according to the City Directory, there are located within our borders at least fifteen institutions or societies whose work is almost entirely of a philanthropic character. Some of these have splendid properties, massive buildings and large endowments. They are an untold benediction to the parties who are specially enjoying their favors and privileges. Several of these were founded by former residents of Germantown, hence the place deserves the credit for them, while, relative to others, the town has been selected as the best place for their habitation. These varied institutions represent a property or endowment value combined amounting to almost ten millions of dollars, while through them about a million dollars annually is being expended



JEWISH POSTER HOME

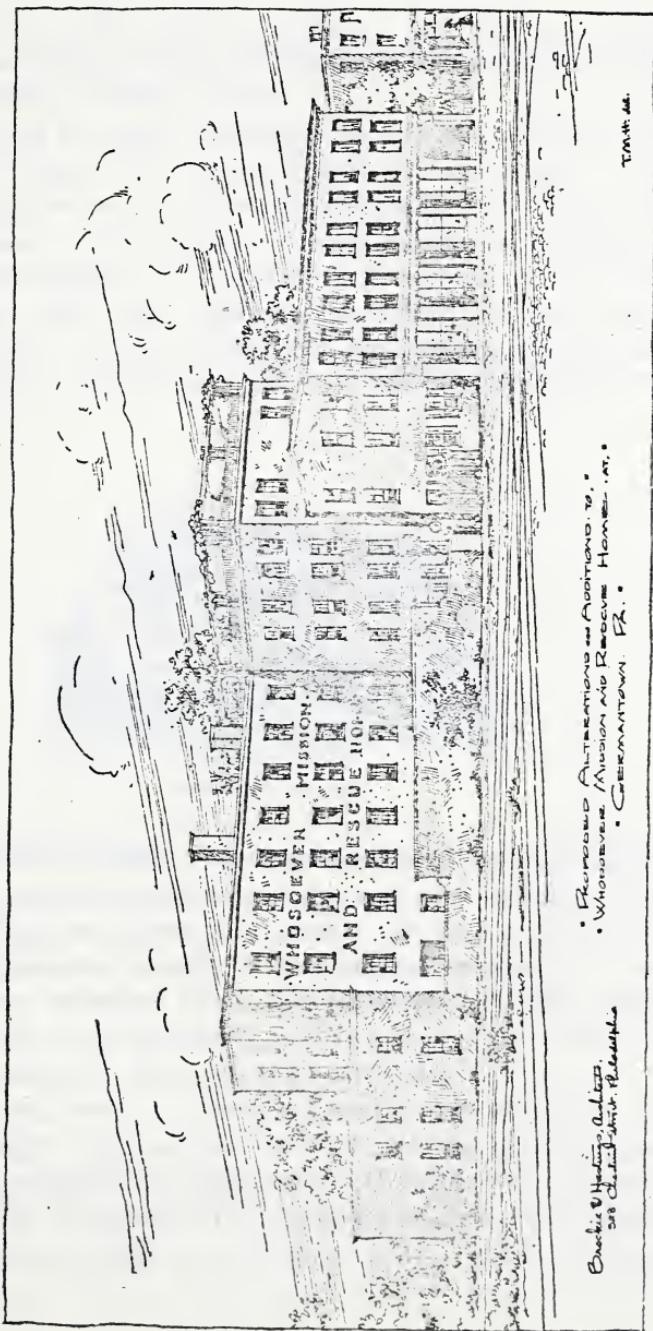




for the comfort of those benefited. It will thus be seen that our citizens are not simply wedded to mammon, gain, amusement or toil. The needy, the unfortunate, those deserving our watchful care, good will and help are not forgotten.

Reformatories for the betterment and shelter of the fallen are here. Homes where the fatherless, the motherless or entirely orphaned may be fostered, trained and cared for, abound. Here, too, great structures open their doors for the aged, infirm, indigent, where without worry the later years of life may be passed in quiet, on even to sunset. Here, too, is at least one home where Christian ministers and their wives, after serving in the most sacred function of life, can spend the evening of their declining age, enjoying the bounty of one, who while living took great joy in preparing this Beulah retreat of his generous bounty. Here, too, is that splendid institution for the deaf and dumb, whose munificent work appeals alike to the heart as well as to the mind of all who are humanely disposed. Our limits forbid going into the detail of the functions and value of each one of these noble charities. We can only mass them. The names and location of these institutions are as follows: Alms House, Pulaski avenue; Door of Hope, home for the reformation of fallen women, Queen street; Friends' Home for the Aged and Indigent, Greene street; Gonzala Memorial Home for Orphan Girls, Church lane and Stenton avenue; Home for the aged of both sexes—Little Sisters of the Poor—Church lane, near Chew street; Hospital and Dispensary, East Penn street, near Chew; House of the Good Shepherd, Chew and East Penn streets; Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum, Church lane, near Chew; Lutheran Orphans' Home and Asylum for the Aged and Infirm, upper Germantown avenue; Nugent Home, for aged Baptist ministers and their wives, West Johnson street; Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.





Brooks & Hodge, Architects  
300 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

• PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO  
• WINGSOVER MISSION AND RESCUE HOME  
• GERMANTOWN, PA.



Germantown and Gowen avenues; Germantown Relief Society, 21 Harvey street; Whosoever Gospel Mission and Rescue Home, Stafford street.

There may be other institutions in Germantown carrying on their benign work whose names do not appear in this list. We have been at considerable pains to ascertain the names of all, but some may not have come to our knowledge in the research. No statistics can tell the humane and beneficent work these agencies have done and are doing. It is an honor to our community that we have them with us. They are a witness to the good will and charitable dis-

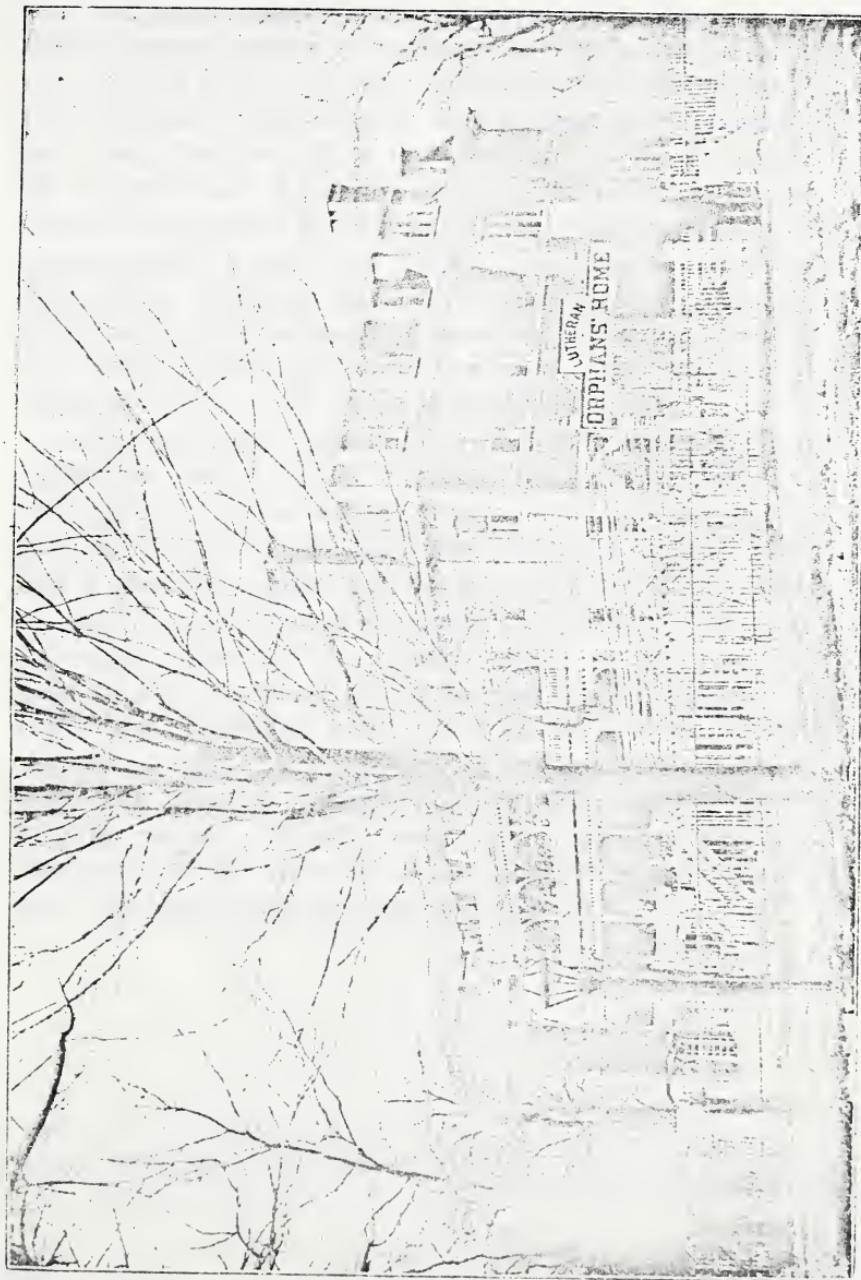


NUGENT HOME

position of our people. Their mission is of the very highest character, and no commercial value can ever be placed upon the blessings and cheer they impart. A true conception of their stupendous benefit, a comprehensive grasp of their far-reaching influence and a full realization of their brightening power over thousands of lives, reveal the transcendent importance of the work they are doing.

Then, too, there is a sense in which even education is a philanthropy. No one can ever pay for the privileges and facilities enjoyed in this realm. Whatever an education may not be, it certainly is a benevolence, resulting from a combination of various conditions, but for which combina-







tion the great opportunities for mental development and enlightenment could not be afforded. With unstinted hands our citizens have ever been liberal in their provisions for the education of the masses. The number and character of our school buildings from the early days of the erection of the Germantown Academy and the Concord Schoolhouse, down to the present time, is a testimony to the philanthropy of our people. Our Free Public Libraries, our Christian Association buildings and other eleemosynary structures, whose sole object is the betterment of the physical, moral, social and intellectual part of our natures, are the outcome of and a witness to the same philanthropic spirit.

As one meditates upon the work which is thus being done within the bounds of our beloved Germantown, there is a growing appreciation of the place, a more pronounced regard for the spirit of unselfishness which all this illustrates, and a profound respect for the general good will of which all these tangible effects have been the outcome. There are those who think this is a selfish world, where it is every man for himself, where all are looking out for number one, regardless of number two. They call it a waste howling wilderness, while they themselves are doing all the howling. The facts, as brought out in this chapter, give a brighter picture. There does prevail a good will to men. The needs of the other fellow are thought of and provided for. The unfortunate are not lost sight of.



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## INDUSTRIAL GERMANTOWN

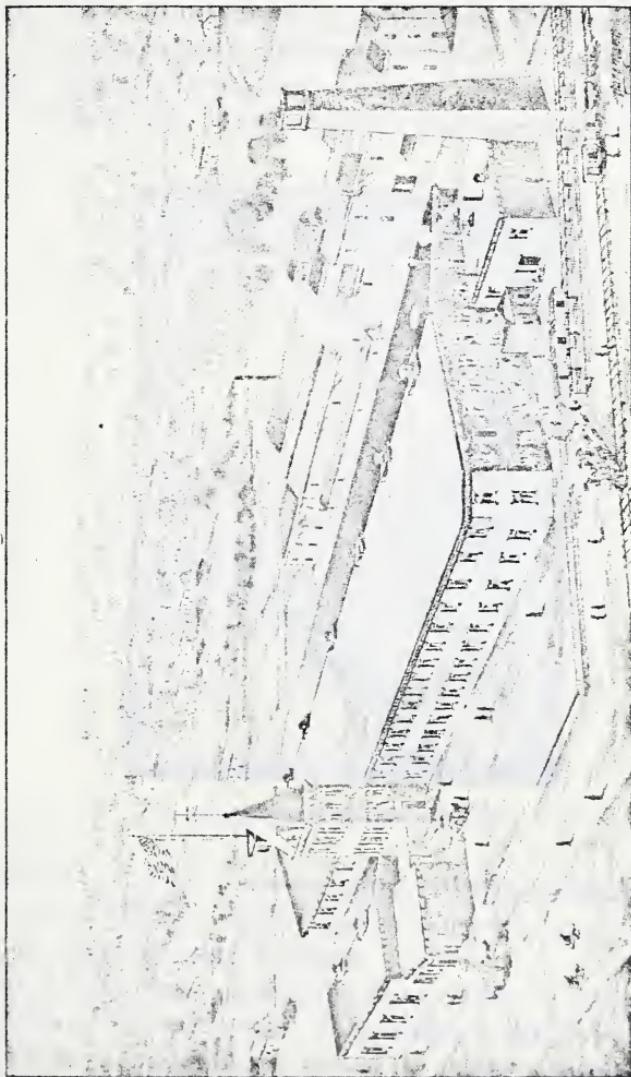
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### CHAPTER VIII.

The residents of Germantown, with either brawn or brain, have always been an industrial people. As either employers or employed they live a busy life. Idleness is the exception and not the rule. To give a detailed account of the varied and extensive industrial enterprises of the town would be interesting, and in the aggregate surprising, at the number of persons employed, the amount of capital invested, and the immense volume, as well as variety, of product secured. In different parts of the community are located a vast number of manufacturing establishments, varying in size from the very insignificant to the immensely extensive. To even mention these in the most comprehensive way possible one might sweep the entire alphabet in simply classing the kind of work done and yet be far from exhausting the subject. Here are numerous industries which represent the apothecary, automobile, architecture, antique furniture, American Metal Stamping Co., Arguto Oilless Bearing Co., etc.; the broom, butchering, baker, blacksmithing, barber, braids, bricks, building, bootblack industries, etc.; the carpentry, catering, cut glass, cornice, cut stone, carriage, cigar, cabinet, coal, cordage, confectionery business, etc.; the dying, drying machinery, dental, dry goods work, etc.; the employment bureaus, Enamelled Art Metal Co., etc.; the Fibre Graphite Co., furniture, flour and feed, florist business, etc.; the grocery, gardening, granite, gas fitting doings, etc.; the hosiery, harness, heating, hardware, horticulture industries, etc.; the ice manufacturing and distributing plants, iron works, etc.; the jewelry, joining, knitting mills and knit goods lines, etc.; the lime, laces.







lumber, livery, laundry works, etc.; the marble, milk, morocco, metal industries, etc.; the nurseries, nurturing and organ business, etc.; the printing, photography, picture frame, piano, paint, painting, paper, pencil work and works, etc.; the refining and roofing industries, etc.; the stationery, stone, spinning, stamping, scouring, shoemaking, scavenging business, etc.; the tailoring, upholstering, undertaking



JAMES H. CROSSINGHAM

industries, etc.; the vine-dressing, woodworking, wax figures, wheelwright, woolen mills industries, etc.; and last, but not least, the yarn business.

This is but the barest outline of a portion of what belongs to industrial Germantown. It is indeed a busy hive of work as well as a magnificent centre of happy homes. From morn to eve the busy hum of industry is heard, and it is rarely possible to find many out of employment, and for



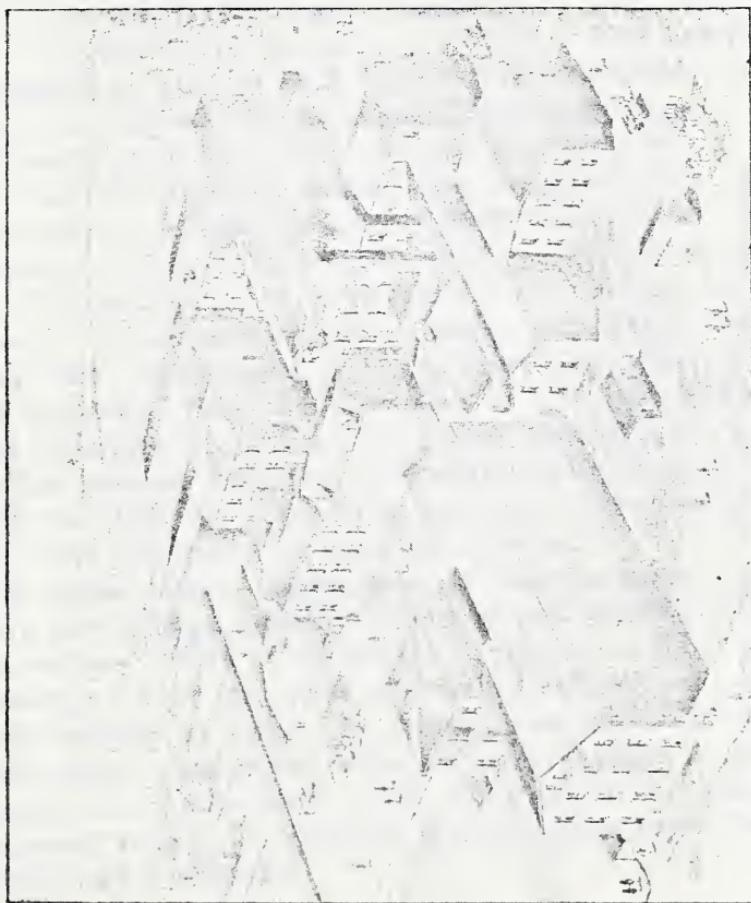
this few a good reason is ready at hand. To keep busy is a splendid medicine. It drives away the blues. It prevents much evil. The old adage is true that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." The fairly good moral condition of the town is accounted for in part because of the industrial spirit of the people. An earned livelihood is an appreciated livelihood. The opportunity to earn a livelihood utilized is a fine education as well as an inspiration.

As an industrial centre Germantown has always had a good reputation. A carriage turned out from the old Jung-



kurth shop was always reliable. Shoes made under the supervision of David Bowman or Samuel Y. Harmer were known to be good. When Harman Osler made a suit of clothes it was all right. When Samuel Collom built a house people knew what they were getting. When Philip R. Freas sent out his newspaper his subscribers knew what to expect. When Mushler sold a loaf of bread people knew of its excellence. When an article of tinware was bought from Fry it was all right. This was true even back at the very beginning. Whether it was a Bible printed by Chris-



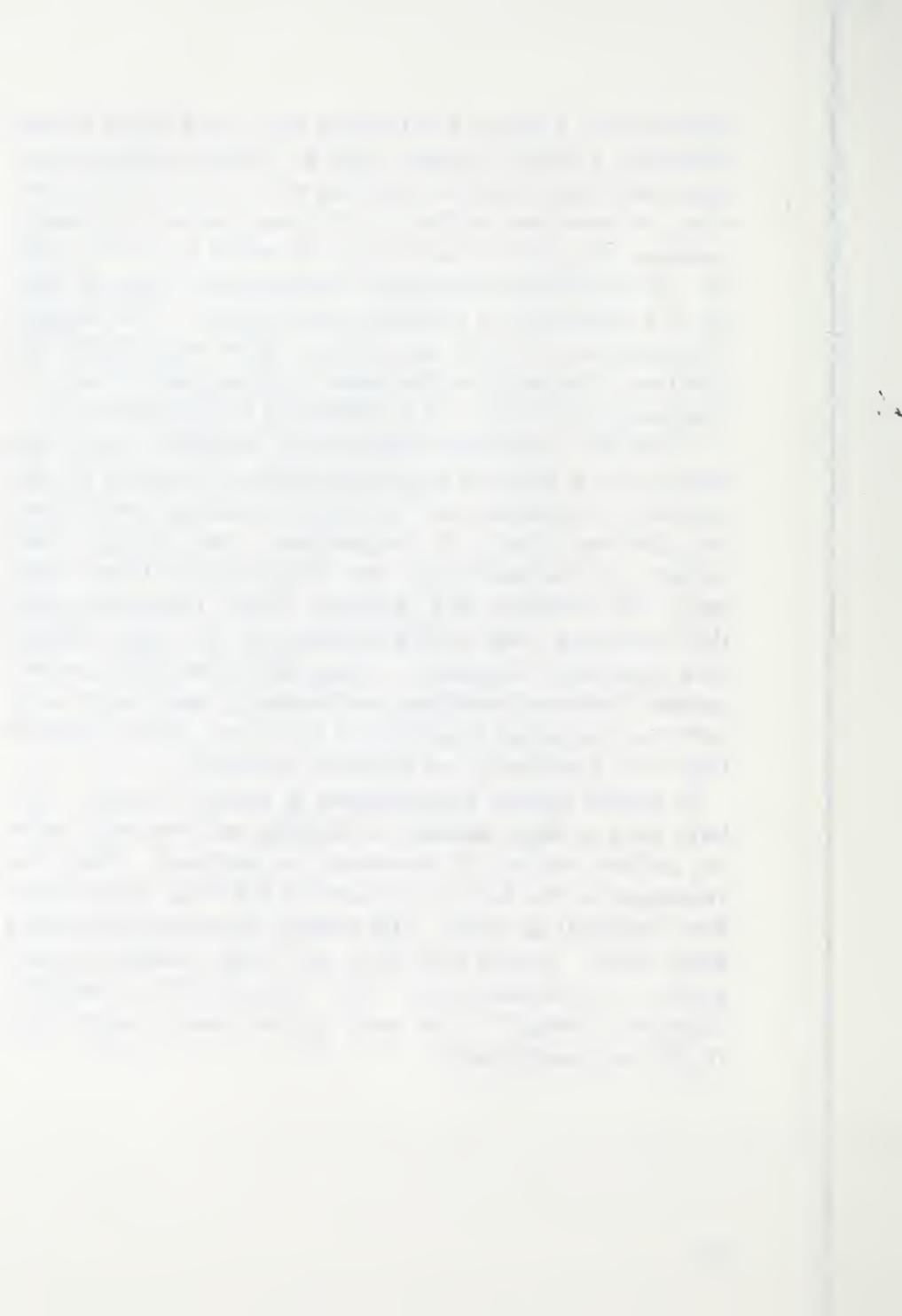


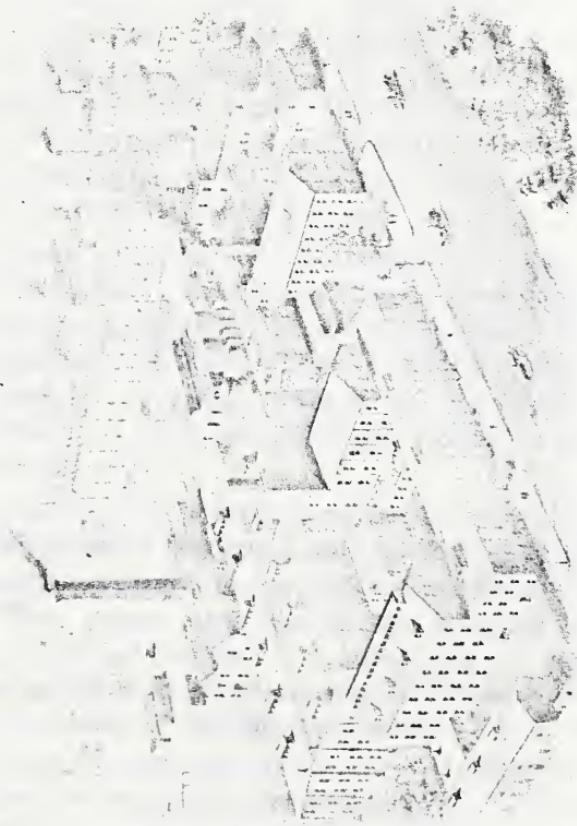


topher Saur, a piece of surveying done by Francis Daniel Pastorius, a sheet of paper made by William Rittenhouse, some flax woven from the spinning wheel of a thrifty housewife, or some lace knitted by the busy fingers of younger maidens, the article could always be relied on for its quality. So to this day the brand "Germantown" upon an article is a guarantee of reliability and quality. The imprint "Germantown" is met with favor. How remarkably has this been illustrated in the name "Germantown Yarn," or "Germantown Wool." It is celebrated the world over.

In all this industrial interest and enterprise there has been and is a splendid financial backing, illustrated by our quintette of splendid and substantial banking institutions, the National Bank of Germantown, the Saving Fund Society of Germantown, the Germantown Trust Company, the Chelten and Pelham Trust Companies, and the marvelous help and protection of our own Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Along their lines they are important business industries, and certainly have much to do with the industrial character of our town, whose projects they have generously yet carefully promoted.

In textile fabrics Germantown is specially noted. We have here a large number of knitting and weaving mills. An endless variety of underwear is produced. From the stockings for the feet to the coat for the back, all are made here, material as well. The hosiery business has always been large. Braids and laces and every variety of knit goods are manufactured. Our industrial life is healthy, vigorous, strong. It has built up our homes, made them thrifty and comfortable.







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## FINANCIAL GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER IX.

In all that pertains to financial strength, probity and confidence, Germantown occupies a most exalted position. From a monetary point of view, judged by the Wall street standard, the place is in the very front rank. For a century and more past here have resided hundreds and thousands noted for their wealth and comfortable circumstances. The accumulated possessions of all these would aggregate multimillions, even beyond all ordinary estimates.

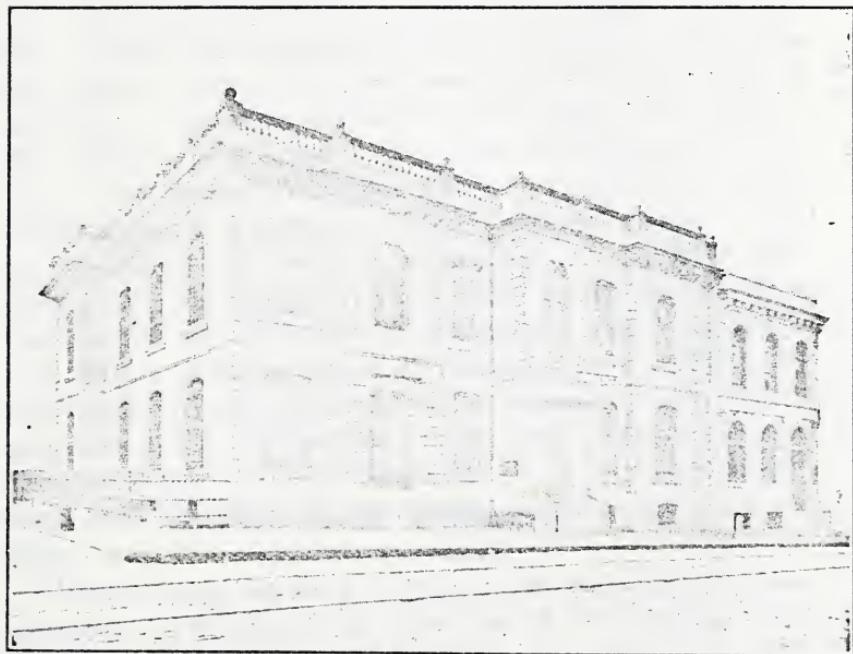
The assessed valuation of the property in the entire Twenty-second Ward, which is as near as we can calculate for Germantown, aggregates the astonishing sum of about sixty-five millions of dollars. This of itself is a marvelous index of financial strength. This at six per cent. would give an income of over ten thousand dollars a day for every day of the year.

Building associations have been wonderful financial helps in the building up of the town, and to-day, according to the last reports accessible to me, these associations of Germantown have assets aggregating the splendid sum of about two millions of dollars. I cannot speak too highly of the building association principle, properly lived up to and honestly carried out. It has financed many a family in this community into the possession of a home of their own, but for which they never would have owned any. As they have been generally managed they have added much to the material wealth of our citizens.

This same line of thought might be followed by dwelling upon the capital invested in various commercial, industrial and other enterprises running also up into the millions



of dollars, but I must limit the balance of this chapter to our six great financial institutions—the National Bank, the Saving Fund Society, the Germantown, Chelten and Pelham Trust Companies, and the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Here alone is a sextette of organizations which in the greatness of their strength would entitle Germantown to the name given to it in this chapter.



NATIONAL BANK OF GERMANTOWN

Our oldest banking institution is the National Bank of Germantown. The first meeting of its directors was held July 15, 1814. Samuel Harvey was its first president, and the noted historian, John F. Watson, its first cashier. It was one of the first to enter the National Banking System of the United States, and in 1864 became a National Bank. Thrice, according to law, it has renewed its charter, and the

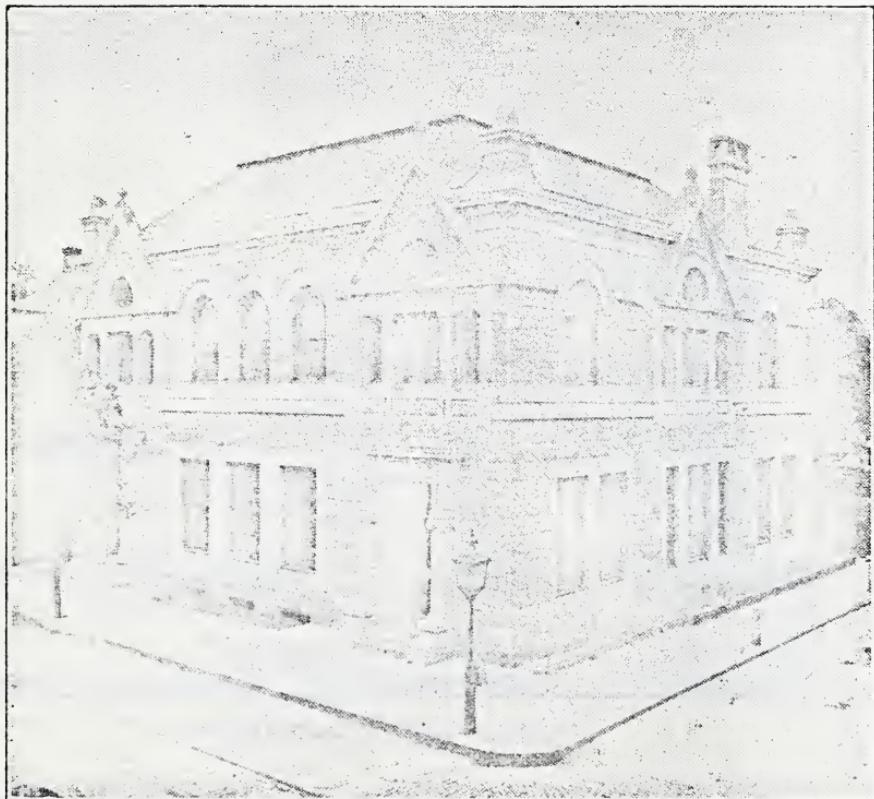


last renewal will carry it on to October 20, 1924. Every year since 1815 it has declared a dividend, and its stock is regarded as a most desirable investment. In its roll of honor of the National Banks in the United States, which number about 6700, the New York "Financier" puts this bank number seventy-two in the country, thirty-one in Pennsylvania and three in Philadelphia. This indicates its marvelously high standing. In 1851, when the late Charles W. Otto entered its service, its deposits amounted to \$190,000. Its last report showed these to be almost two and a half millions, while the assets amount to the snug total of \$3,646,911. The high character of the men at the head of this concern have made it the financial Gibraltar it is to-day. The present officials—President, Canby S. Tyson; Vice-President, Thomas B. Homer, and the Cashier, Walter Williams—are worthy successors of the men who, through all the ninety-four years of the bank's history, have commanded the confidence of the people, and in co-operation with a sterling board of directors have enabled the institution to outlive safely every financial storm of the past nine and a half decades. In all these years it has contributed much to the development of the town, its industries, and, therefore, to the strong financial status of the place.

Much of what we have written of the bank and its management we might add as true also of The Saving Fund Society of Germantown and Vicinity. Founded in 1854, with those royal men, Abraham Martin, T. Charlton Henry, Elliston P. Morris, William Ulmer and Hon. Alexander Henry at the head, and a board of directors composed of the same manly integrity, it has continued its onward course until it rounded out its fifty years of existence with 20,344 depositors, whose sum to their credit reached \$5,868,465, while the total assets of the company, at their last report, amounted to \$7,623,089. It almost takes one's



breath to think of all which these figures mean. Its present officials and management command the respect and confidence of all who know or have dealings with them. This means much to the organization which has so recently enlarged its facilities for its ever-increasing business.

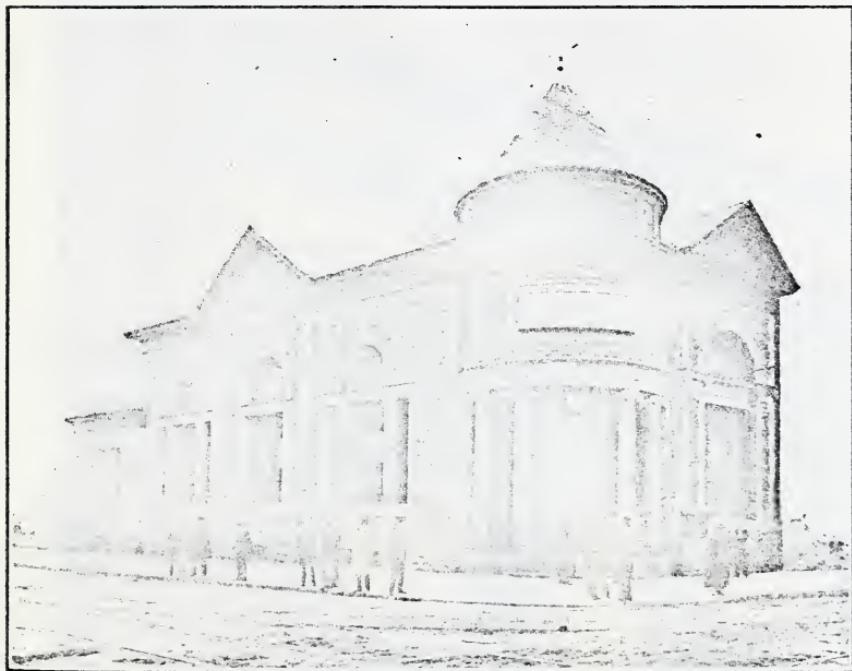


#### SAVING FUND SOCIETY

Its President, Samuel G. Dennisson; Vice-President, John J. Henry; Treasurer, Charles A. Spiegel; Assistant Treasurer, H. T. Montgomery, are among the solid, reliable and respected men of the community.



Of a more recent date was the establishment of the Germantown Trust Company, which occurred July 23, 1889. Its progress and status to-day is a marvel of financial growth, indicating the very high place it holds in the estimation of our townspeople. Its last published statement gives its assets as \$4,835,635 and its deposits as \$3,550,079,

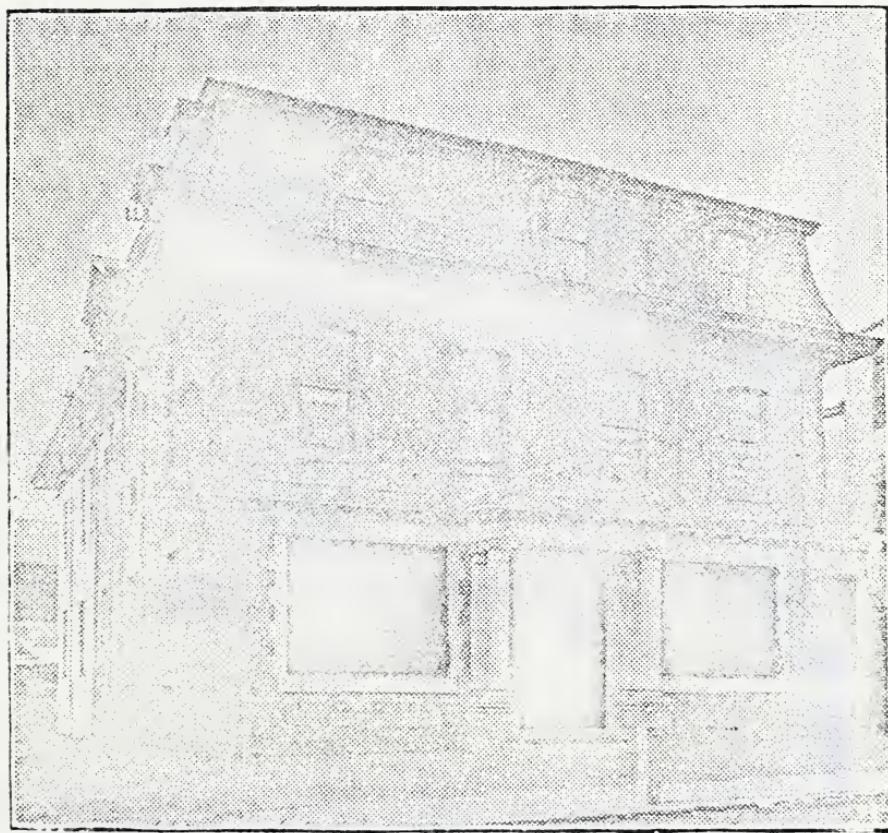


GERMANTOWN TRUST COMPANY

while its trust funds alone aggregate \$3,414,043. Its President, Edward Mellor; Vice-Presidents, William H. Haines, Jay Gates, William T. Murphy, the latter of whom is also Treasurer; Real Estate Officer, John C. Bockius, together with men composing its directorship, gives the secret of the great confidence reposed in this strong and prosperous company.



More recently organized still is the Chelten Trust Company, which opened for business October 1, 1906, yet it has advanced constantly into public confidence and favor. Its latest published statements show its assets have already reached \$819,172 and its deposits \$480,592, while its trust

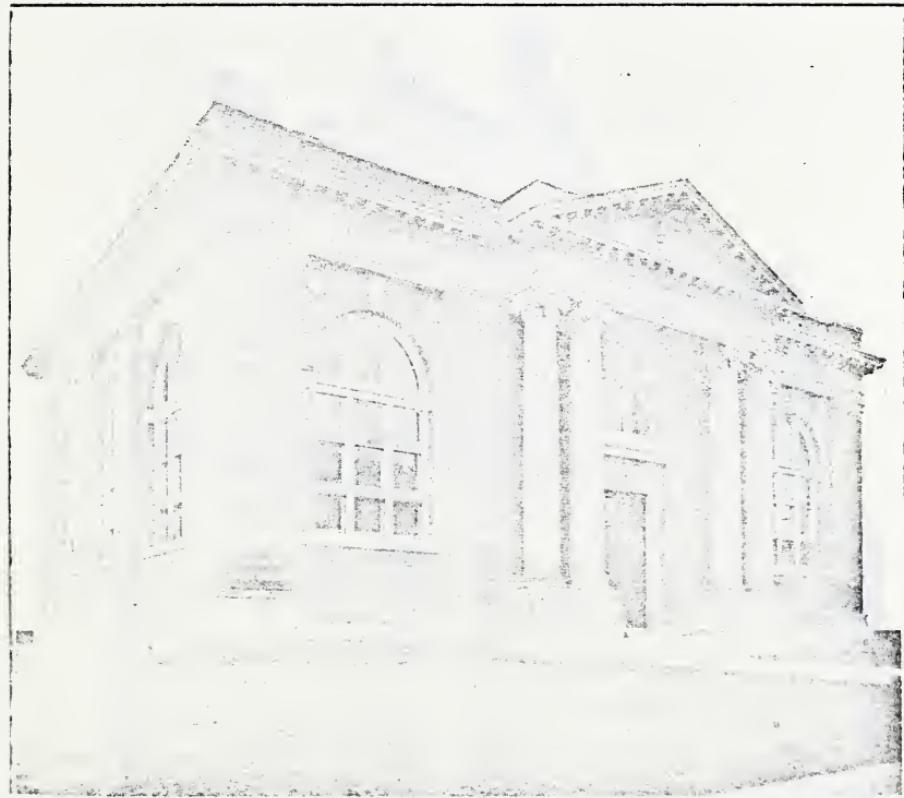


CHELTEN TRUST COMPANY

funds amount to \$36,357. Its officers are: President, James H. Ritter; Secretary and Treasurer, George W. Cliffe; Real Estate, Title and Trust Officer, Edwin C. Emhardt, who, with the substantial board of directors, is the guarantee for solidity, safety and success.



Organized in March, 1906, the latest banking institution to open its doors in Germantown was the Pelham Trust Company, and in the short space of time since it began business its assets amount to \$576,000 and its deposits to \$350,000. Such a statement is highly complimentary to the

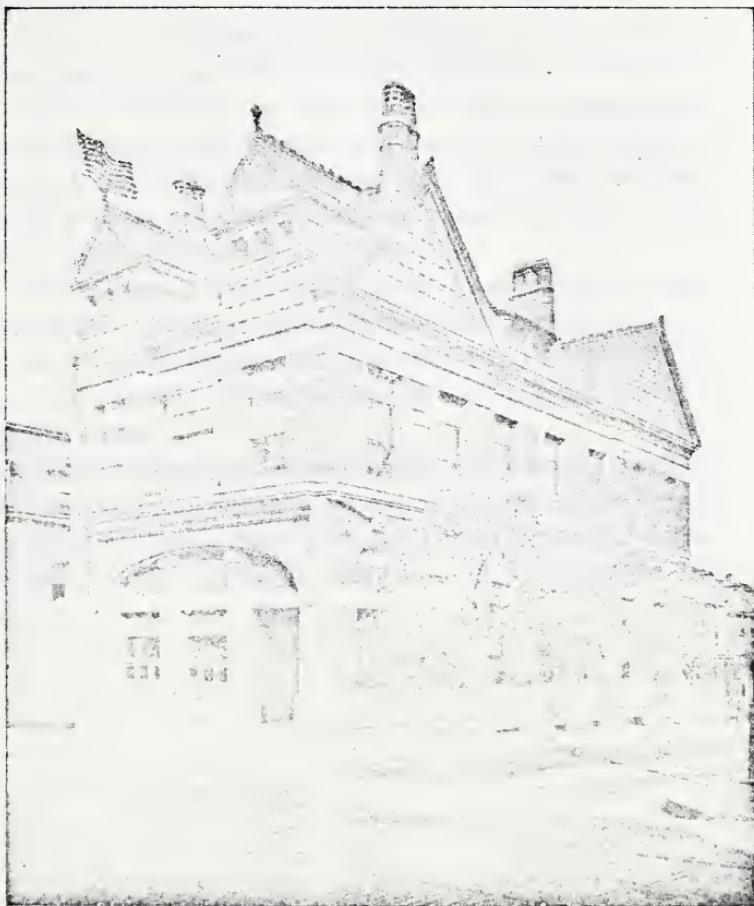


PELHAM TRUST COMPANY

officers—President, Jacob S. Disston; Vice-Presidents, Francis Schumann and Albert H. Disston; Secretary and Treasurer, W. Morgan Churchman; Real Estate Officer, A. Rothwell Meehan—as well as the able board of directors.



The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown and Vicinity wrote its first policy June 18, 1843. It has ever conducted its business on very careful and conservative lines, and so has ever commanded the confidence of its



MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

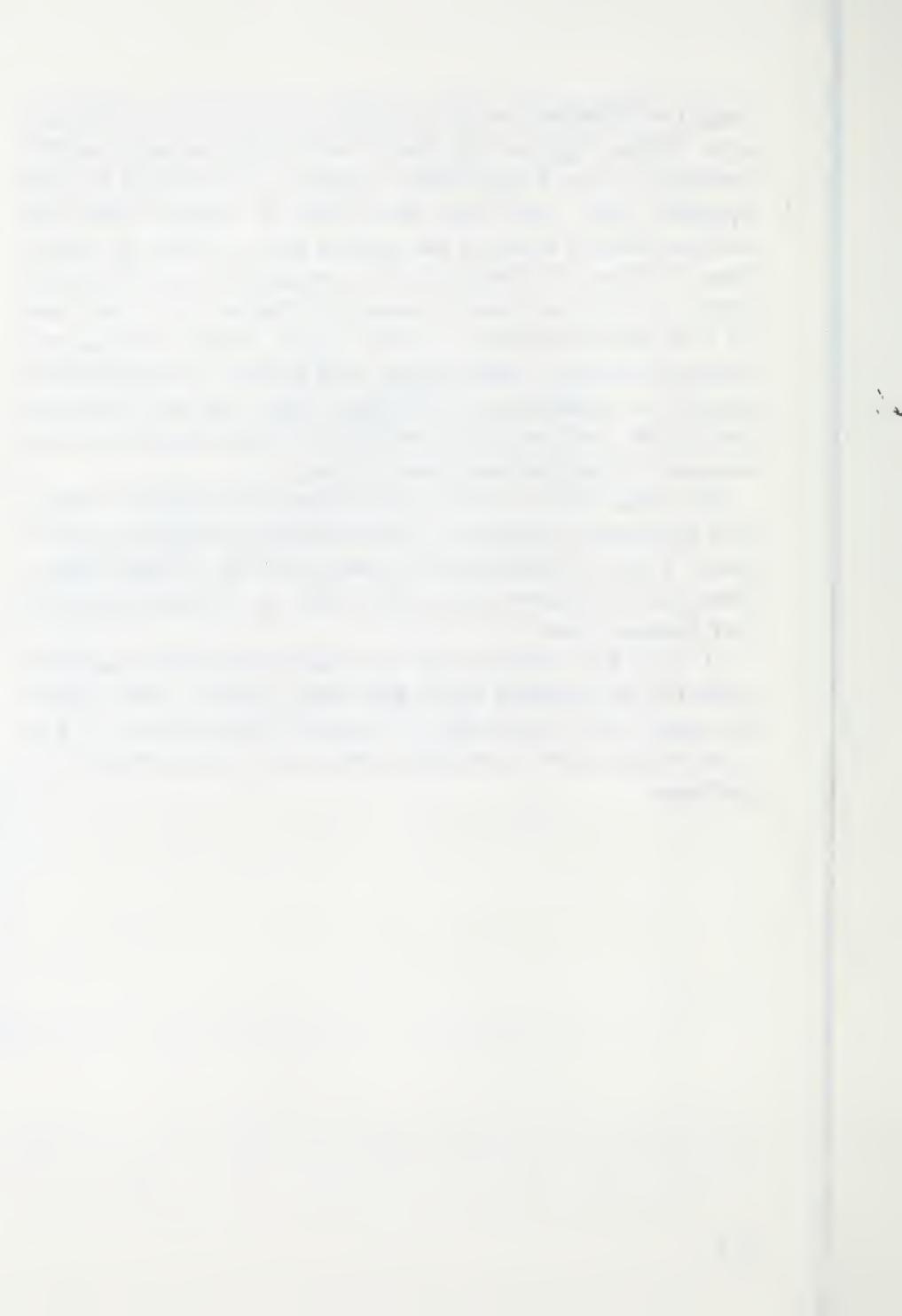
patrons. At the end of the first thirty years of its history its surplus amounted to \$79,000. At the end of its sixty-fourth year, which was in 1907, its surplus reached the



height of \$820,802, while its assets summed up to \$1,200,-096. These figures tell their own story and are complimentary to the business-like conduct of its affairs by the splendid men who have had them in charge, from the earliest officials down to the present time. Surely its President, William H. Emhardt, the companion of our boyhood days; its Secretary and Treasurer, Charles H. Weiss, son of our old-time friend, as well as its board of managers, among whom are ranged men well known to and appreciated by us in earlier as well as later days, may well feel honored in the position of the institution, which they have done so much to build up and make strong.

The total assets of these six stalwart and reliable financial institutions amount to about nineteen millions of dollars. This of itself speaks volumes for the thought elaborated in this chapter, and adds lustre to the good name of our historic town.

It must be evident to all who make themselves familiar with the aforesigned facts, and many others which might be ranged with them, that "Financial Germantown" is not a misnomer, but a veritable fact, too, of tremendous importance.



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## MUSICAL GERMANTOWN

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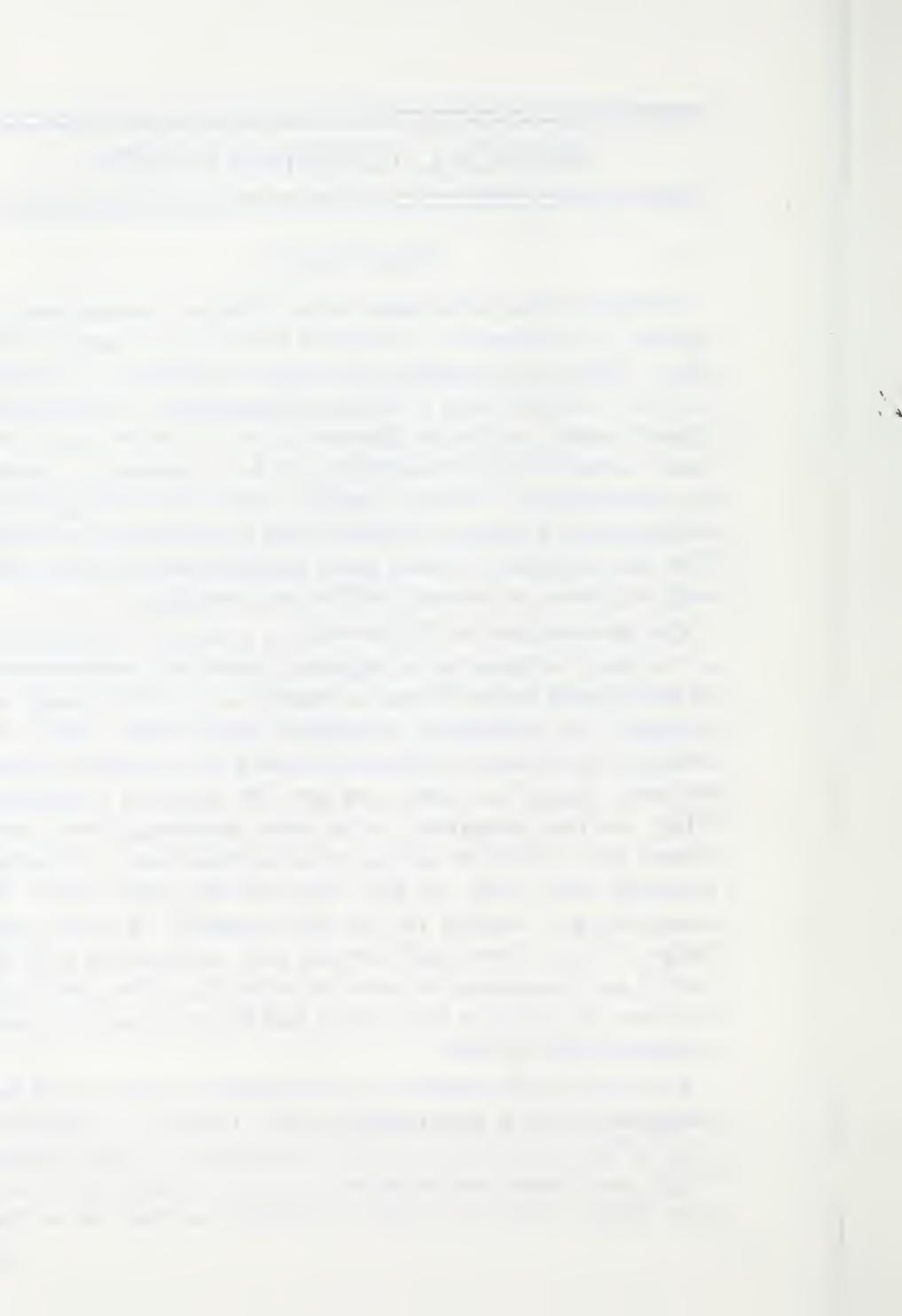
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### CHAPTER X.

There are those who smile when Musical Germantown is spoken of, because they think the facts do not warrant the title. They are, however, very much mistaken. It is true you will not find here a German Sängerbund, a celebrated choral society of large dimensions, nor can we point to some famed Welsh Eisteddfod, yet for a number of years the Germantown Choral Society, under the distinguished leadership of Professor Gilchrist, was a pronounced success. But the existence of such great organizations are not the only evidences of musical ability and standing.

On the standard of Paderewski as a pianist, Ole Bull as a violinist, Gilmont as an organist, Sousa as a bandmaster, or some great prima donna, or master in the art of song, as vocalists or celebrated specialists upon other wind or stringed instruments, Germantown may not be able to point to their equals, but these are not the standard examples. They are the exceptions to the rule, towering above and almost out of sight of all else in the musical line. Notwithstanding these facts, we still claim for this place that it is deserving and worthy of the title musical. A lover and judge of music, who had traveled very extensively, said to one of our prominent citizens the other day, that they had not been in any place where they had found so much of real musical ability as here.

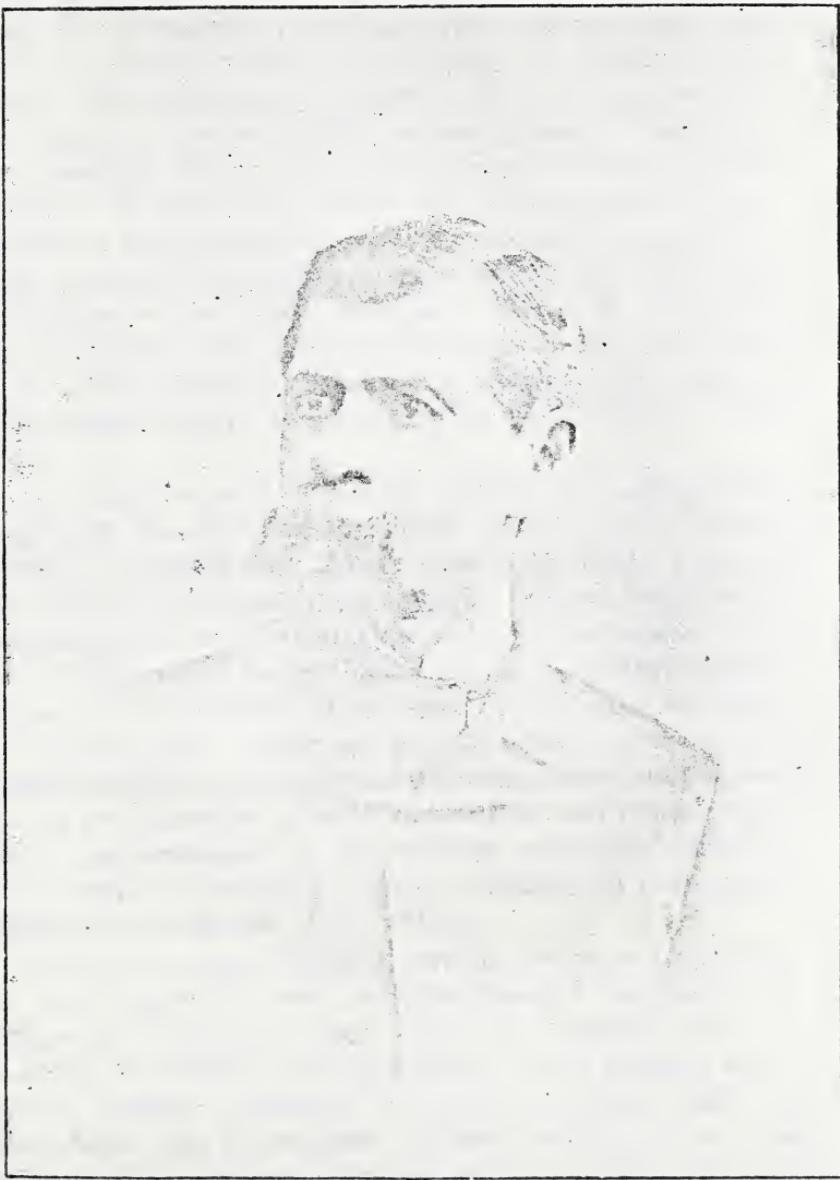
Call the roll of families in this community and it will be surprising what a vast number would respond to the presence of some kind of a musical instrument in their home. Walk our streets and wherever you go, among the humbler abodes, the more stately residences, as well as in the



midst of palatial homes and other places, how constantly strains of music will greet your ear. Under these conditions more than once has the remark been made to us, "This is quite a musical town." The attention that is given to music in the homes, upon a broad or limited scale, according to the means and tastes of the people, is indeed a wonderful testimony to the musical character of the people generally.

The music of our church choirs is a most important factor in this connection. Here a great interest is manifested. There is indeed a wonderful devotion in these to choral, solo, duet, trio, quartette and octette singing. Our musical directors, choirmasters, organists, are persons of no mean talent, and some of them are in the very front rank as masters of the art. The church organs and other musical instruments in use are among the very best. In quality and real merit the music of our Germantown churches is on a par with that of any churches in Philadelphia, which are on an equal plane financially, numerically and spiritually. Our church music takes no back seat as compared with any other locality on the true scale of real merit. Thousands of dollars are annually spent in support of this music. All along through our past history our churches have ever encouraged the best music that could be secured. A half century ago, when Frederick A. Burness, William A. Ulmer, John Peberdy, F. William Bockius, Charles Howe, Richard Farrer, Charles Minninger and others wielded the tuning fork in the choir galleries, there was good music, while these leaders themselves were the crystallization of love for and ambition towards the best music. They encouraged it, put their lives into it and made it count along lines of helpfulness wherever possible. The early singing schools and musical drills maintained have not entirely faded from the minds of those who enjoyed and improved the advantages they afforded.





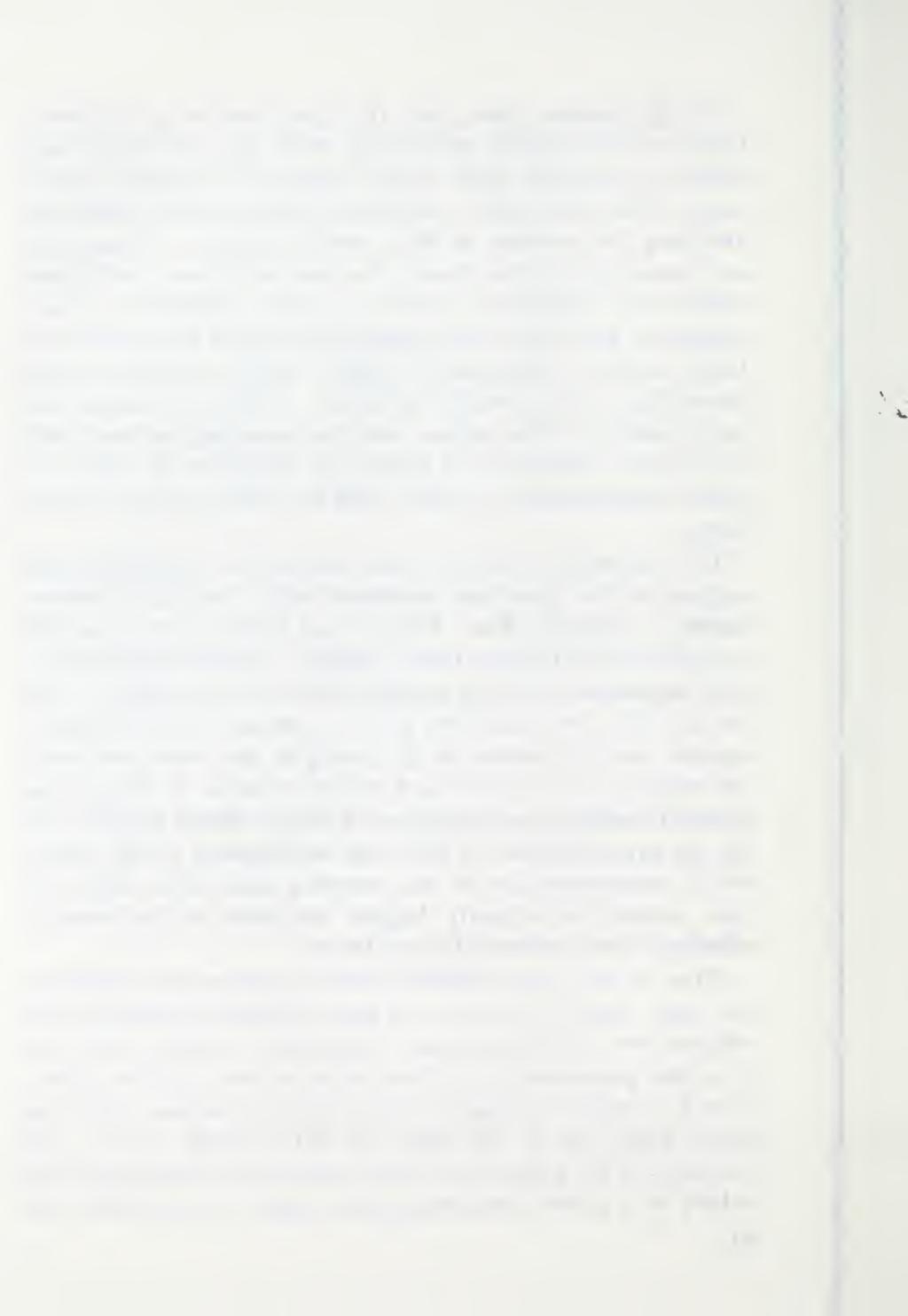
FRANK RAUSCHER



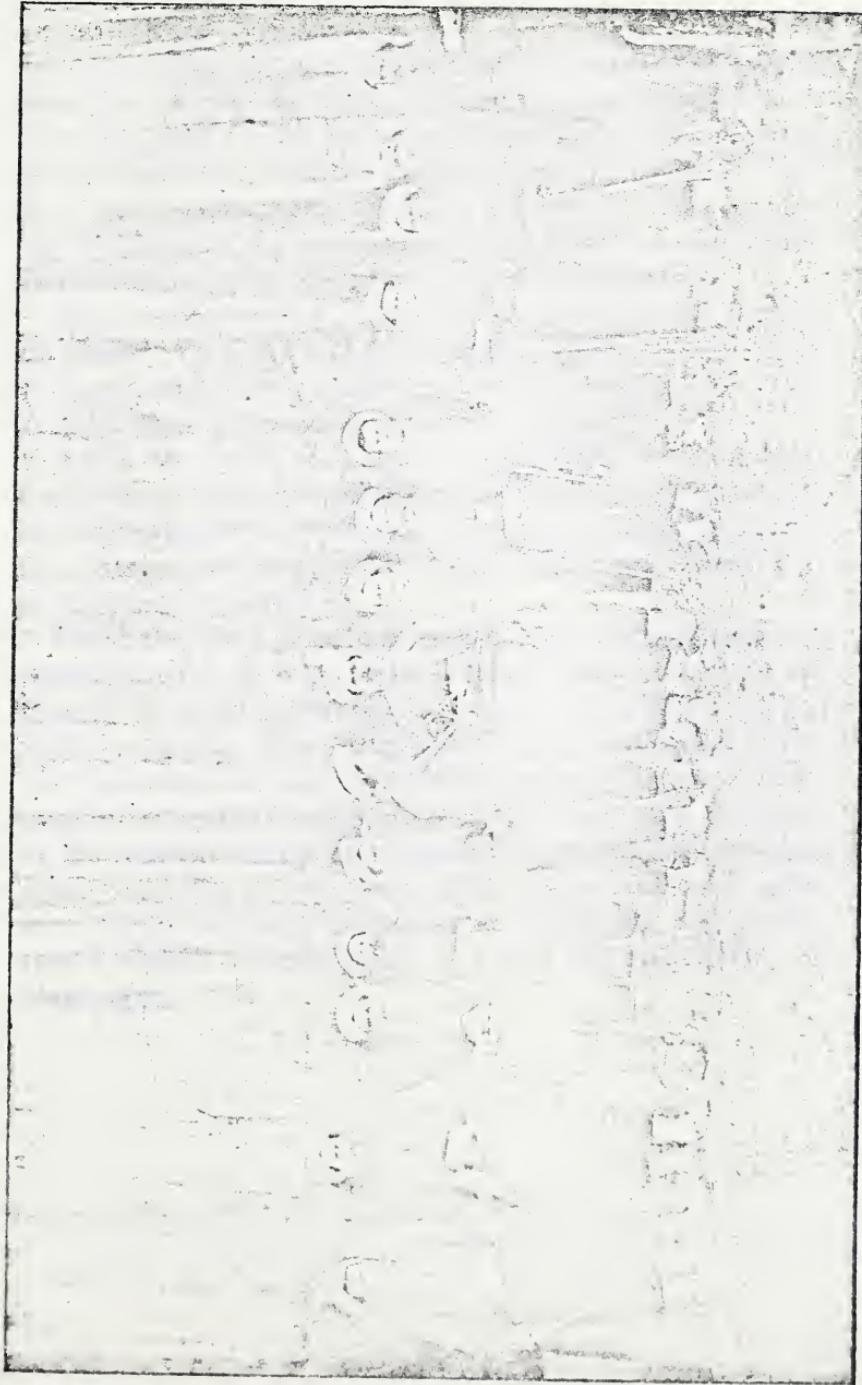
At the present time, too, the choirmasters of Germantown are thoroughly acquainted with the art; their very souls are musical; their whole tastes are attuned to harmony; while the many members of these varied choirs are anything but novices in their several spheres. Bring into one assembly all the choirs, the fine boy choirs and those made up of adults, the chorus and the specialists of Germantown, and they would make a profound impression for their numbers, the quality of their voices and their exact knowledge of the details of music. Some, of course, are more proficient than others, but the knowledge of and skill in the real rudiments of music, as displayed by these, is alike complimentary to them and the town which is their home.

In connection with the choir music the congregational singing in the churches, combined with the aid of instruments, is certainly fine. No one can listen to the music of our churches, Protestant and Catholic, without being favorably impressed with the musical ability of our people. Add to all this the attention given to music in the Sunday-schools and the interest of the young in the same, the musical training in our public and private schools, in the special musical studios, conservatories of music, choral unions, and by the great number of able and well-known music teachers, a comprehension of the meaning and work which all this reveals is certainly highly creditable to the musical efficiency and interest of our citizens.

True, it may seem difficult here to get up and maintain for any length of time any great special combination of singers for continuous choral, oratorio or cantata work, yet in a less prominent way these often receive marked attention by smaller companies for special occasions. This has often been true in the past, as facts readily prove. On account of its proximity to the centre of a great city, of which it is a very important part, where are furnished the



THE 114TH REGIMENT (ZOUAVE) BAND



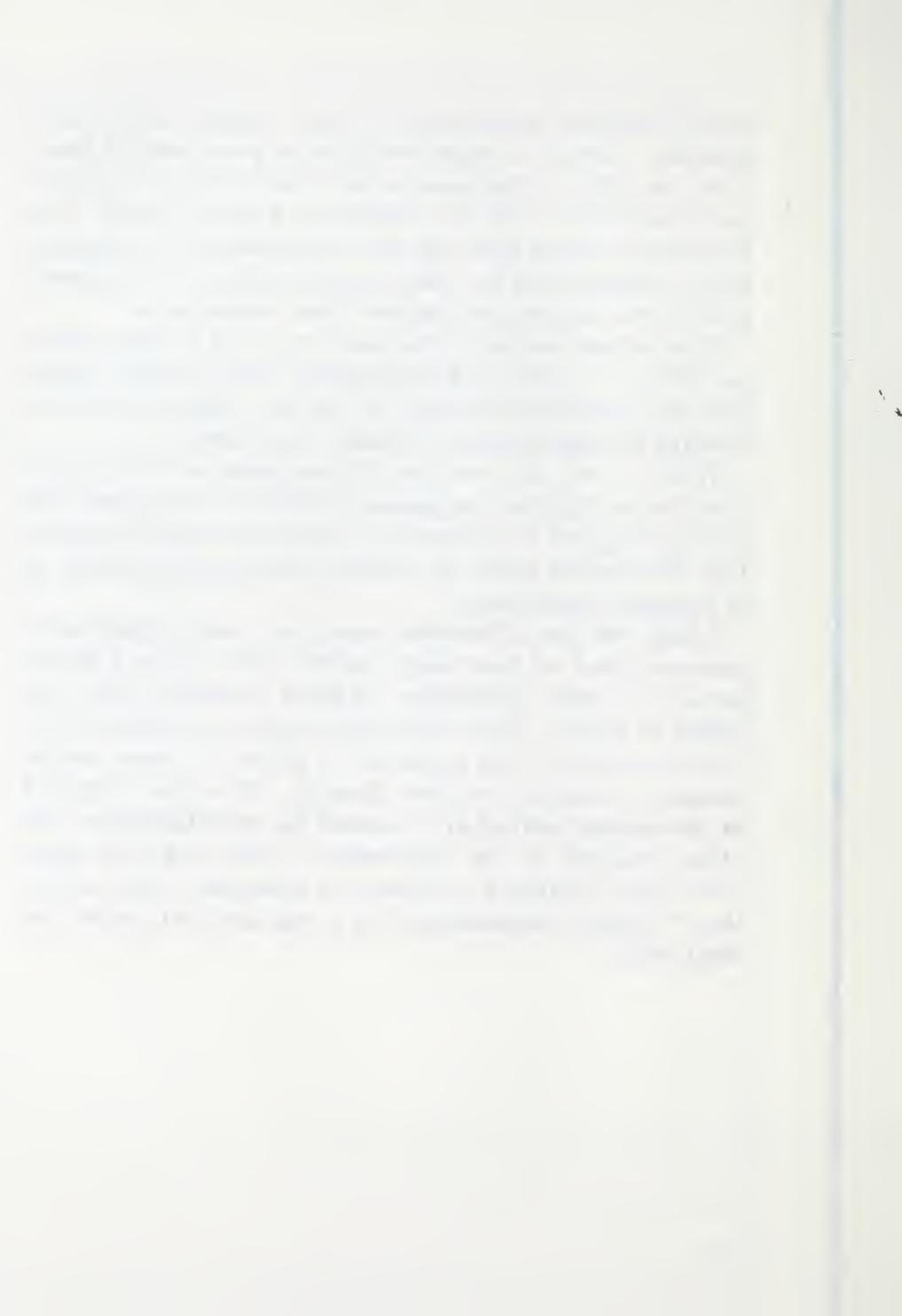


world's greatest attractions in music, distinct and special attention cannot, in organized form to great musical functions, be given to the same extent that would be the case were Germantown off at a distance as a city by itself. Yet there have resided here, and do at the present time, persons really distinguished for their musical ability as composers, performers, singers and players upon instruments.

Many whole families in the town are noted for their musical ability. In band and instrumental work we have those who are well-known leaders in the art, while some have attained the high honor of eminent composers.

While it may be true that Germantown, at the present time, has no regularly organized company of any great size actively engaged in rehearsals, yet the fact cannot be denied that the musical talent of the place, active and inactive, is of immense proportions.

Along the lines of secular music, too, much attention is bestowed, and we have large numbers who can and do entertain to great advantage by their versatility, tact and ability in music. Then this musical taste and talent is further illustrated in the appreciation shown to some special concert or musical function of merit. It is also displayed in the musical ability at command for entertainments and other occasions in our community. Over and over again have these furnished evidences in abundance and variety that "Musical Germantown" is a real and not merely an ideal affair.



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# MILITARY GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER XI.

No one can view the Germantown battleground environing the Chew Mansion, nor look upon the Battle Monument in Vernon Park commemorating the battle, nor gaze at the Soldiers' Monument on Market Square, nor visit the National Cemetery on Haines street, nor ramble through other burial places in this vicinity and read the inscriptions carved into marble marking the last resting places of soldier dead, nor become familiar with the records of Ellis Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, nor ascertain the numbers connected with the Sons of Veterans, nor recall the historic "Germantown Blues," nor be conversant with the companies embraced in the National Guard of our State, nor know anything of the response to the call for the Spanish War, nor learn of the United States pension list in this locality, without concluding most positively there is such a thing as "Military Germantown."

It is true that among the early settlers the arts of peace were depended on for protection, more than the implements of war, yet many a home had its flint-lock gun to be relied on in case of necessity. The martial spirit was not entirely dormant. It did show itself in a variety of ways. During the Revolution the American Army had in it a number from among our patriotic citizens, while prominent or private English soldiers resided here for a longer or shorter period, as circumstances permitted or required. Several of our streets bear the names of soldiers prominent in the Revolution, as, for example, Washington, Greene, Knox, Musgrave, Wayne, Sprague and others. After the organization of the Republic we had our "militia companies," who kept up a knowledge and practice of military tactics.





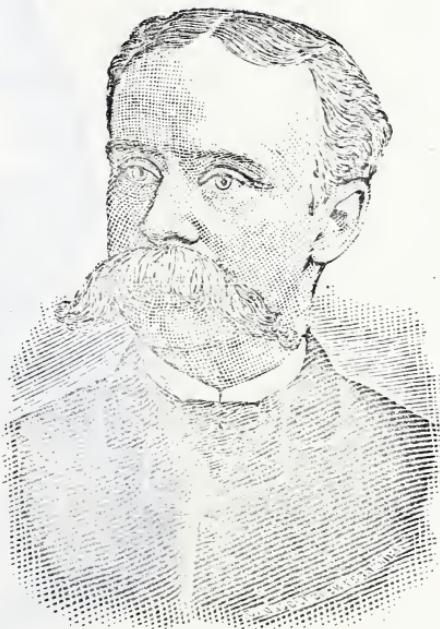
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



In what was known as the second war for independence, the War of 1812-14, Germantown was not slow to be represented for the defense of right and the cause of our country. Through the Indian Wars, the Whiskey Rebellion, and other antagonisms, the military spirit of our people was not dormant. In the war with Mexico, during the forties of the last century, our "Germantown Blues" were



GEN. JOSHUA T. OWEN



CAPT. GEORGE E. FORD

represented at the front. Our boyhood memories are stirred with the parades upon our streets in the early fifties of the veterans of the Mexican War, and the enthusiasm their appearance used to awaken.

Coming on to the Civil War, in the early sixties, where is the pen that can describe the military spirit of those days? Strong men in the prime of life, young men from



varied homes, were on the move to volunteer in every arm of the service of their country in response to the call of President Lincoln, while hosts of veterans wished it were possible for them to go also. Those were stirring times and waned not in interest from the fall of Sumter to the surrender at Appomattox.

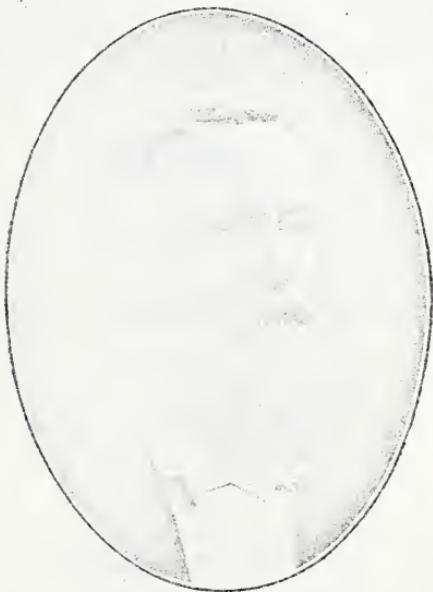


CAPT. FRANCIS ACHUFF

In camp, in hospital, on the field of battle, through the agency of the Sanitary as well as of the Christian Commissions, our men and our women were inspired by the patriotic military enthusiasm. The stories of the heroism of our brave boys have been told over and over again. The patriots from Germantown were abreast with those from other parts of our country in the army and in the navy dur-



ing all that terrible struggle. Many of them sleep their last sleep in our national cemeteries, in unknown graves and in other places of sepulture. They died that their country might live. Brave and true, from first to last, the men and women of our town did their duty, and they share to-day in the glory attendant on the fact that our flag waves over a united Republic, without one star obliterated or stripe erased.



GENERAL LOUIS WAGNER

Appreciative of all this military valor, glory and sacrifice, the people of Germantown, under the auspices of their own Ellis Post, of the Grand Army of the Republic, reared the splendid and significant Soldiers' Monument in the most noted historic square of the town. This splendid pile cost \$12,000, and upon its corner tablets are already the names of many hundreds of brave soldiers and seamen who have died since 1861. Thus are their memories and their deeds



perpetuated by the military pathos of our people. This of itself is a fine tribute to the military status of the community, not to speak of the tablet placed by a grateful State in Vernon Park, commemorative of the Battle of Germantown.

Coming down to the Spanish War, our people were not a whit behind the most forward in their response to the clarion call, "Remember the Maine." One hundred and fifty-nine sons of veterans from this place responded to the first call for volunteers by President McKinley. They en-



COLONEL GOWEN

tered the regular army, the volunteer service and the navy. Bravely they did their duty. In the freedom of Cuba they wrought a prominent part. Some were with the Rough Riders and Roosevelt on the firing line of danger and courageous daring, while others, under Sampson and Schley, had their place in the fight from the vessel's deck; yet others were still in reserve ready for the emergencies of the occasion and the demands of war. In our cemeteries are buried men represented in every war in the history of our country. This is a remarkable testimony to the worthi-



ness of our claim for the military spirit, prowess and history of the town. Once we had within our borders a military institute where were gathered students who in after life became distinguished soldiers upon the rolls of our country. Our militarism does not run into the pugilistic but into the patriotic spirit.

A large number of our citizens are conscientiously opposed to war. Their religious creed is for peace. While this is true, they are firm believers in the law of self-protection. They will stand by the flag of their country. They will defend their homes and be loyal to their government, and that far are in harmony with what is military in character. A wonderful military interest gathers around the last century and a half of our history. All honor then to the men and women who have aided in giving this title to our town.





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## HOMEFUL GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XII.

Were Germantown a separate municipality it might rightfully be regarded as a city of homes. The home life of the great mass of our people is certainly ideal. They are comfortable and contented. Everything that modern ingenuity, experience and artistic taste can suggest enter into the convenience and arrangement of the structures occupied as homes. Here are homes associated with the life of the City, Commonwealth and Nation, representing the Colonial, Continental, Centennial and Columbian periods of our history. Here Washington found a home, Alexander Hamilton was domiciled, John Adams lived, Here have lived artists and authors, barristers and bankers, capitalists and chancellors, diplomats and doctors, educated and elite, Friends and Fellows, geometricians and gallants, historians and harpists, influential and industrious, jurists and journalists, Keltics and kindergartners, linguists and landlords, manufacturers and mechanics, navigators and nephaliasts, operators and optimists, philanthropists and politicians, quadratists and quininists, rectifiers and reformers, upholsterers and undertakers, vinedressers and vegetarians, warriors and weavers, xylophonists and xlyographists, yawlists and yarn workers, zealots and zoologists. Thus having doubly swept the alphabet we have not exhausted the variety in character and position of those who here have had their own dear quiet homes.

Germantown is indeed a residence quarter, not that alone either, for home is not merely four square walls, though with pictures hung and gilded; nor is it merely roof and



room. It is where abides those we love and who love us that makes the home sweet home, concerning which in all the world there is no place like it. Permeated by pure, mutual and true love are a great host of happy homes within our borders. Of course, all are not perfect havens of rest and peace. There may be some homeless homes. That



A SUBURBAN HOME

condition is to be expected. It exists everywhere, but taken as a whole our community can show as many homefule homes to the square mile as any other in the wide world. Its entire history and life have been favorable to the home ideal, defence and development. The sacred enclosure has been guarded with a judicious solicitude.



How many whose early life was associated with the homeliness of the place have lived elsewhere and have longed for the time when it might again be their home. Around the very name of the old town gathered their deepest convictions, the most endearing associations, the most sunny influences which could control the mind. In many of our homes the inmates nestle like a bird which has built its abode among roses, where the cares and coldness of earth are averted as long as possible. Flowers bloom, love abides, confidence prevails, loyalty abounds, and in some cases it does almost seem as if Paradise had been restored. One of the mightiest benedictions in which Germantown delights is the homeliness of its homes.

In the early days the quiet, homelike life of the people called forth commendation and recognition when the city began to grow, the business men, desiring to locate their homes in the suburbs, almost instantly turned their minds to Germantown.

Some of our homes are very homely. There is nothing elaborate about them. Their environment is plain, their furnishing is frugal, and there is nothing connected with them to indicate luxury; but they are full of home, and all the elements which enter into a true habitation of the heart are there. So that, "be it never so homely, there is no place like home."

The assessed valuation of the home properties of this town is nearly forty millions of dollars, but they have a value in moral power, honest righteousness and in domestic felicity which can never be measured by a money standard.

Other homes, again, are the abodes of smiling plenty. All that taste can conceive, or culture suggest, or wealth supply, or enjoyment can secure, are accessible. The very setting of the home, its architectural design, its external adjuncts and internal adjustments, its larder and its wardrobe departments, as well as all its arrangements, enter



into the conception of making it a model home. Yes, there are many such homes in Germantown, superb mansions, palatial dwellings, rich with blessed memories, bright with glorious inspirations, gladsome with merry-hearted occupants, and the very centres of blessing to all visiting or living in them. Many have felt the genial charm of our home



SOLID ROW OF HOMES

life and as a result have been made brave for duty, strong for demand and steadfast against all temptation. The memories of a mother's tender care, of a father's glowing ambition, have wrought their moulding influence on the plastic mind of many a Germantowner in later life, as in thought they have turned to their old home, which was once the



little world of the happy family circle embraced within its walls.

Whether the homes of Germantown be those of the rich or poor, or of the great middle class, neither rich nor poor; whether they be the palatial mansion, environed by lawn or grove, or the solitary cottage with its neat surroundings, or situated in the long rows of solid blocks, all that we have



PLEASANT HOMES

here said is true of the great majority of them. Ours is a homeful community, full of happy, pleasant, attractive homes.

The notable and spacious homes which a generous philanthropy has erected within our borders for the orphaned and aged is also another evidence and illustration of the homefulness of the town.



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## MERCANTILE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XIII.

From its very founding, two and a quarter centuries ago, Germantown has been able to boast of a good class of business men and women. At the very beginning they were in evidence and conducted business at their mills and in their shops, at their spinning wheels and with their knitting needles, in their printing houses and through their type foundries, with their stores and in their market houses.



In later times, and anterior to Revolutionary days, we had our historic "Market Square," whose very name carries with it the idea of merchandise. All the way along, too, it has had its well-established and recognized stores. At a later day, when great market houses came into vogue, for the purpose of meeting the needs they were intended to supply, it built a large stone structure on the main thoroughfare and in the central part of the town. That building is now used for laundry purposes.



As a place of residence the town has become renowned, but it is also a wide-awake business emporium. Its mercantile interests are simply immense. Some two hundred different lines of business are represented here. From the little shops, up through the medium-sized stores, to the great trade establishments, the places of business reach up into the thousands, while the capital employed aggregates



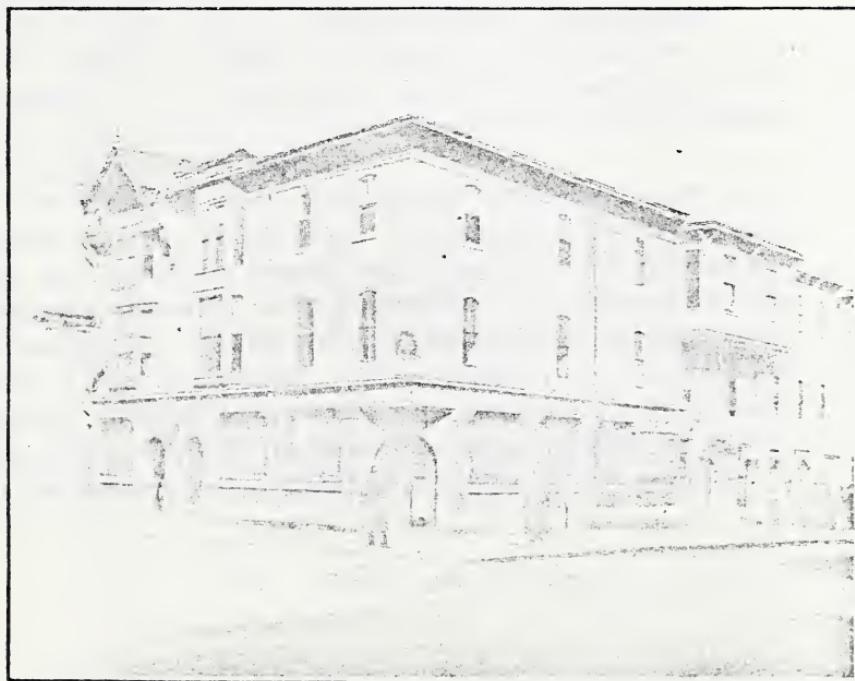
JAMES S. JONES

millions of dollars. An examination into the stock of these stores is at once a revelation of almost endless variety, apparently for every need and taste of the human family, in quantity and quality of wondrous range and suited to every purse and condition.

The merchants of Germantown certainly deserve credit and patronage in view of their investments to supply the wide range of need.



The way to build up a town is to patronize the business interests of the place. Spend your money in it. Put the weight of your influence into it. If it is worthy to be your place of residence, why should not the merchants be worthy of your support? The business of the town improved by this patronage adds to the value of property. Some, it is true, may use the town simply for their own convenience.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

They, of course, are independent and can do as they please in this matter, but a better principle is to recognize the great law of interdependence. As this is truly cultivated there is comfort, peace, happiness. Where the convenience of self is the dominating factor, then in case of absolute need the establishments and provisions of the local com-



munity are utilized and patronized. Whereas, if these business enterprises had to depend on this kind of support they could not continue to exist, so that the special needs could not be at hand for a convenience. That they do exist and flourish is evidence of their patronage, and that the people of the town are the patrons.

When money is needed for local institutions, or to meet some pressing necessity, our merchants are the ones called on every time, and as a rule they show a liberal hand.

We need not blush for Mercantile Germantown. Our merchants are broad-gauged, enterprising and up with all that can be expected of them when all the facts are known and properly considered.

Our Business Men's Association is helpful to the mercantile interests of the town. Its purpose is "to advance by fair and honorable means such objects as will further the business interests of Germantown." It believes in the encouragement of trade and the progress of the best interests of the community. These objects are laudable and worthy of being pushed forward. Since its organization it has done a work for the town; nor does it slacken its efforts, as the interest in its monthly meetings clearly indicate.



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## HEALTHFUL GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XIV.

From the very earliest days of its history Germantown has always had a good reputation as a healthful locality. This has often been a strong factor in the choice which has led vast numbers to select it as their place of residence. In times when yellow fever or other malignant diseases have prevailed in the heart of the city, this town has been resorted to as the temporary or permanent abiding place, where there was freedom from all fear of contamination.

A prominent citizen, writing from Germantown in 1809, speaks of having taken up his residence here "hoping to recuperate his impaired health," and that he had found here just the elements which produced the desired effect. Such instances might be cited almost without limit. Many letters have been written and articles printed extolling the salubriousness of the atmosphere, the absence of causes detrimental to health and the prevalence of conditions calculated to invigorate and recuperate. The open territorial area upon which the town is built, the general height of its altitudes and the opportunities for a splendid drainage are all conducive to health.

In proportion to our large population the remarkably low death rate, as compared with other localities, speaks volumes in favor of the healthfulness of the people. Of course, persons die in Germantown. The city "where there was no more death" is not on this mundane sphere, but the percentage of deaths is strikingly small. Then, too, the large numbers of our residents who attain an advanced age is a remarkable commendation of an environment which seems to be favorable to longevity. Men and women hale and



hearty, erect and vigorous, even after they have passed the eightieth milestone of life's journey, are not uncommon sights upon our streets or in our homes. The careful ob-



MRS. JANE BOCKIUS

server of the throngs upon our thoroughfares will be favorably impressed with their healthful appearance. The ruddy glow upon the cheek, the erect form, the elastic step, the



clear eye, all tell their own story, and strangers visiting our community are not slow to note this phase of our healthful life. In some places as you walk along you are greeted ever and anon by the cadaverous, sickly-looking specimens of humanity, whose hacking cough, bowed frame and slow-moving gait tell their own sad tale. How rarely such a scene is witnessed upon our streets. The general good health of our people is a recognized and notable fact. Even



JOSEPH MURTER

our physicians are not slow to voice their convictions upon this fact that Germantown is a healthful locality. Taken as a place of residence all the year round, few if any towns in this country show, on a general average, better health prevailing than exists here. Of course, we have our temporary ailments, our passing slight sicknesses, yet as a rule



it will not be easy to find a point whose general atmosphere is more permeated with the ingredients of health than that we breathe hereabouts.

Said one to us the other day in speaking of a certain institution located here: "We made choice of the site we did because of the healthy condition for which the place is celebrated." Another remarked: "That which induced me to make this place my home was on account of the general



HENRY F. BRUNER, HALE AND HEARTY

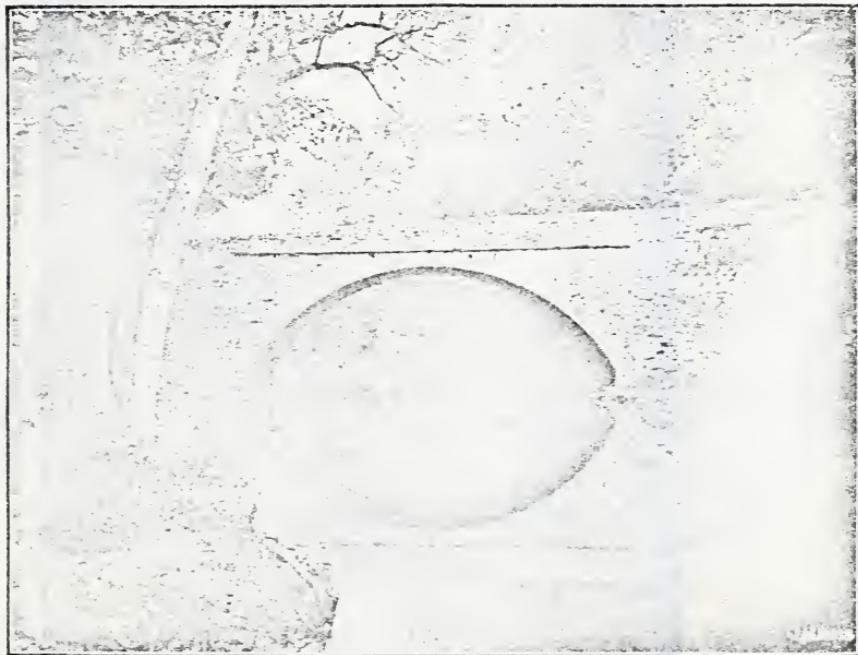
good health which I found, upon careful examination, the people enjoyed." More than once have we met with individuals who have declared to us they never had a day's sickness in their lives and have never had to pay a doctor's bill.

Of course there are persons who get sick in Germantown, yet when the facts are known it is not the fault of the place, but arises from some inherited taint, from some culpable



indiscretion, from some violation of a reasonable law of nature. No matter where they lived for the same reasons they would probably be sufferers.

If Germantown is such a healthful place as the facts prove it is, then what of it? Much indeed! Make known the fact, publish it far and wide, let the people know, and as a result they will flock here to establish their business,



A HEALTHFUL SPOT

to take up their home. The outcome of this will be the building up of the town, the occupancy of the waste places the growth of the community. As a result the institutions and commercial interests of the place will be helped, enriched, enlarged, made a great power. A more enlarged prosperity would ensue, the reflex influence of which would accrue to the benefit of many.



A community that can point to its healthful conditions, and therefore to its cleanliness, to the tonic character of its pure air, to its remarkably low death rate, has indeed a bonanza, of which it can make very much if properly utilized and wisely directed. We do not advocate Germantown as a health resort or emporium, for that would be to bring the sick here from all quarters, though there are localities



THE WISSAHICKON

where there might be established a sanitarium of the highest grade, where needed rest, the blessings of a fine atmosphere and all other conditions that would enter into and make such a place a marvel of attractiveness and blessing. Such an institution would be accessible to an immense patronage and under capable and proper management might



People want to live where it is healthy. They desire to do business where healthful conditions can be guaranteed. Here, then, Germantown can set up, rightfully, a claim whose verity cannot be questioned, whose value cannot be overestimated, whose virtue has been established for centuries. Germantown for health may well become a clarion note, a rallying cry, which may be made to mean much for the town and for those interested in its upbuilding and enlargement.



A QUIET RETREAT

In view of the importance of health to all lines of life, business and comfort, people are intensely concerned to locate where healthful conditions prevail. It is better to be poor from loss of property than poor from loss of health. Here, then, from its very healthful atmosphere, Germantown proffers a place for business or residence deserving the attention of all the people.



become as renowned as Clifton Springs, Danville, and many other resorts of equal note.

Aside from the natural advantages contributing to the healthfulness of this location, great credit must be given to the skill and judicious care of our physicians, who rank among the very ablest in their profession anywhere. Due honor also must be given to the public health authorities, who are ever on the alert to safeguard from disease and enforce regulations essential to preserve against all contagion. Another important factor in this connection is the excellent and painstaking work of our plumbers, whose responsibility in the premises is certainly very great. These different agencies co-operating contribute their share to the general weal and health of which we have written.



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## SOCIAL GERMANTOWN

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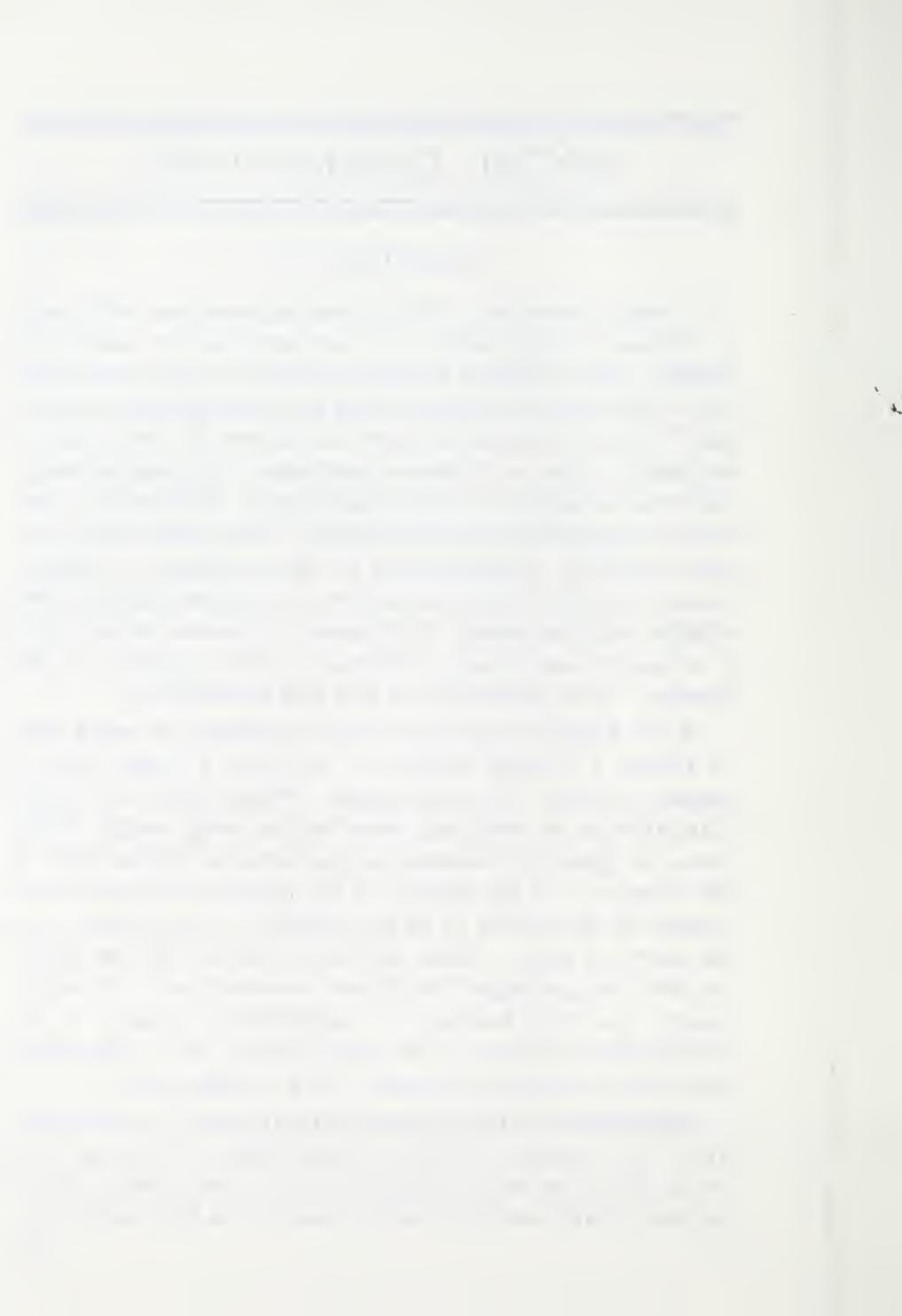
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### CHAPTER XV.

A deep interest in, a fairly close acquaintance with, and a profound appreciation of Germantown for nearly six decades, has awakened a conscious pride for the true social life, which has ever characterized and distinguished its people. We do not use the term social here in the sense of socialistic. For, as Webster well says, "In popular usage the term socialism is often employed to indicate any lawless, revolutionary or social scheme." We refer to that element which is comprehended by the readiness or disposition to friendly converse or action, to companionship, accessibility, neighborliness. With some, of course, its only idea is a festive conviviality, tributary to the appetite or the passion. This, however, is a low and sordid idea.

In the English language there is, perhaps, no word used to render a broader service or to cover a larger field in human life than the word social. Hence there are varied standards as to what may pass for the truly social. With some its great idea centres in the home or in the club, in the theatre or in the church, in the library or on the street corner, in the saloon or in the cloister, in the lodge or on the marts of trade. Some estimate social life by the ability to carry on prolonged intelligent conversation, or to enjoy simply the retail business of neighborhood gossip, or the devotement of hours to the merry dance, or to the giving up of an evening to "a smoker" or a "euchre party."

Illustrations of this diversity are at hand in abundance. Here is a company of the gay and giddy. They go on a frolic. Even the cup which inebriates is freely used. There is quite a lark, and the claim is made of a fine social time.



Though as a sequel there may follow headaches, heartaches, ruined lives, wrecked homes, bleared eyes, bloated cheeks, the unsteady gait and undermined health. Those who may think this is the acme of all their ambitions will find it in Germantown. Yes, there is a social grade, which finds in such a life all that seems to be cared for. Fortunately for our community this sort is not universal. It is not the standard of the great vast majority of our citizens. It does



CHARLES J. WISTER

not hold the reins of recognized power, nor command the respect of those whose appreciation is worth regarding. It is a form of social life whose tendency is down grade, and all self-respecting manhood and womanhood need to shun its deceptive allurements.

Another company takes a different course. With them there is intelligent converse on the topics of the day, along the lines of literature, music, art, commerce, science and the varied phases of human life. From lip to lip, with the



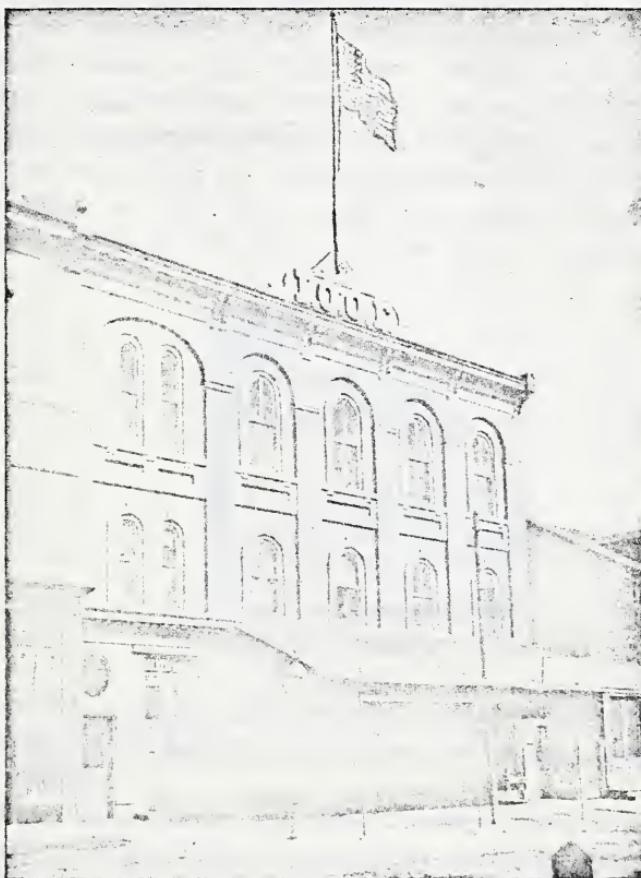
greatest animation, the deepest interest and the most perfect affability, the themes are discussed. All present are absorbed. Time passes pleasantly. At the proper time light refreshments are tastefully served. Music is interspersed. The fraternities of friendship and kinship are interblended. All feel the elevation and thrill of the occasion. At a seasonable hour the function comes to a close, with warmest expressions from all of the exceedingly enjoyable social time. On the way home the moments are filled up with pleasant thoughts relative to the delightful season of unbend and inspiration. Refreshing sleep follows, and the morning dawns upon those made happy and even more comely by the social converse afforded and participated in. A goodly host are to be found in the ranks where this kind of social life is approved and emulated. From this viewpoint a wide range of homes and people are embraced. It is this kind of life that most characterizes our people. It makes and embraces the best as well as the most influential society in the town.

Germantown, too, has its exclusive "Four Hundred," who believe that "we are the elect and after us there are none beside." If these want to be thus exclusive they can be. They have a perfect right to their own opinion and seclusion. Outside this imaginary rainbow circle some may chafe because they are not in it. They may be jealous over the charmed selected ones, but why should they be? The world is wide. There is room for all. All may form their own circle of society, and the uncrowned queens of Germantown as well as the royal sons within our borders may attain social heights not surpassed by the most exclusive or fastidious. For, after all, social life and society are just what we make them for ourselves.

In Germantown there are circles and inner circles—sets if you please so to call them. That, however, does not militate against the highest type of social life. The real



heart of truest friendship and sincerest fellowship does not compass a great multitude. In fact, as each home becomes the real centre of the best forms of social life, around that home and to its inner circle will be gathered a larger or



ODD FELLOWS' HALL

more limited company, according to its tastes and the time at command for the cultivation and enjoyment of the amenities of society.



In this whole matter, too, there must be taken into account the diversities which enter into the make-up of human character. Some persons are naturally social, cordial, free-handed, open-hearted, demonstrative, enthusiastic. It is a part of their nature to be jovial. They could not be otherwise. They have no fondness for nor tendency towards the frigid zone. Others again are phlegmatic, conservative, reserved, matter-of-fact, dignified. Their lives partake more of the refrigerator process. It is not an easy thing for them to be excessively sociable. It is an effort on their part to be even genial; yet sometimes when access to the inner soul of these becomes possible,



YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB

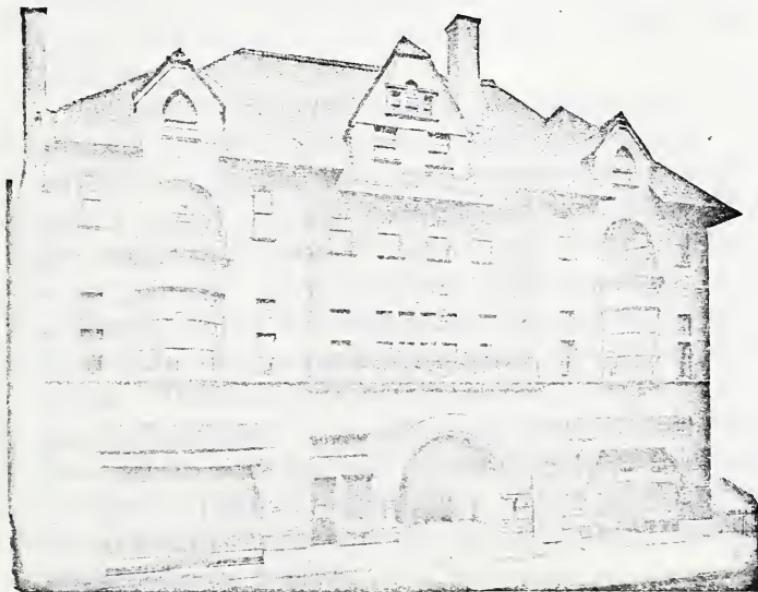
there is a nobility and strength in their social nature which commands confidence and esteem for its real merit as well as stability.

Then again there are those in these strenuous days of hustle and push who are so busy and absorbed with the duties and demands of their lot and position, that they have neither the time nor the inclination for even the ordinary civilities of social life. Not that they do not enjoy, or would not delight in varied social functions, but they have not the time. Even moments with them are of the utmost value. Take some of our greatest scientists, musicians, sur-



geons, bankers, railroad magnates, and many others; they have almost absolutely to side-track themselves against the many calls from the social realm.

Weigh this whole subject, from the wide standpoint of all these facts, in all their bearings, then take into account the social life of Germantown, putting upon its varied phases the best construction possible; the conclusion reached by an unprejudiced mind will be exceedingly favorable. Our social life is permeated with many admir-



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

able traits. It is certainly sympathetic in time of real need, appreciative on occasions for proper demonstration, generous and thoughtful when those are the lines to take, as well as quiet and dignified when such conditions best indicate its presence.

A half century and more ago, as memory returns to that period, there is recalled a very pleasant old-time gentility



among the residents of the town, which then commanded the reverence and admiration of our youthful days. Unassuming and unostentatious as we met them upon our streets or visited with them in their homes, there was a genteel and ladylike courtesy, refinement, good cheer apparent, that was as winsome as it was impressive and never to be forgotten. To be with them, or simply to meet them, there was the consciousness of being in the presence of the true gentleman and the noble-minded woman. They gave grace to the social life of the town, dignity to the circles in which they moved and honor to the community of which they were important factors.

Delightful memories, indeed, do gather about the old-time gentlefolk of the town. They were found in all the walks of daily life, occupying sometimes an humble cottage, a stately Colonial residence, or in some cases a modern structure of palatial magnificence, in the midst of spacious grounds. Even in these days we often come upon evidences still of this high ideal in the genteel social life of those elder days around which there was to us so much of charm. We certainly take a laudable pride in the social life of the place. It is one of our pronounced characteristics, and to me it has only pleasant memories, blessed benedictions and genial inspirations. While its existence at the present day is a glorious heritage, pleasingly enjoyable and transcendently helpful.



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# RELIGIOUS GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER XVI.

We use this title in the ordinary and common acceptance of the term, so there can be no reasonable misunderstanding of the topic. We do not say that our town is specially religious, or that her people are better than those found in other communities. We set up no such pharasaic claim. There is, however, a phase of life which appropriately comes under the name religious, and which has characterized the place from the very beginning of its history. The early settlers desired to enjoy religious liberty. They had it, and "they left unstained what here they found, freedom to worship God."

The Mennonites, the Friends, and The Brethren, as they now call themselves, were here at the very beginning, and their meetings were open to all. They were followed later on with the establishment of churches by the German Reformed, the Lutherans, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Protestant Episcopalians. Later still we find churches composed of Roman Catholics, Baptists, Unitarians, Reformed Episcopalians, Evangelicals, Congregationalists, and perhaps other denominations, whose names are not familiar to us. The Salvation Army is also here. So far as we have been able to ascertain there are forty-five different churches in the town. The edifices in which these conduct their worship are so situated as to make a church accessible to any of the population desirous of attending religious services. They are not crowded into any given locality. About one-half of them are either situated on Germantown avenue or within a block or two of that thoroughfare. The others are located at good points in the



built-up parts of the town. In all of these, as it should be, "the rich and poor meet together." Some of these bodies have more wealth among their members than others, but we do not know of a single church whose doors are not wide open to welcome all who desire to attend, be they rich or poor.



THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

The church life in Germantown compares very favorably with that of other localities. It is not perfect. Perfection is not an earthly characteristic. There are spots even on the sun. If we are looking for shortcomings, with the eye of the lynx, we shall find them; yet if, under the garb of a true Christian charity, we are on the alert for good and





JOHN M. RICHARDS, D. D.



commendable traits, they will appear in rich and beautiful clusters in many a well-wrought life and character. Many residents of Germantown have their membership with the churches in the city or elsewhere. Whether this is of personal benefit to such, or to the advantage of the town, where their residence is located, we do not presume to say.

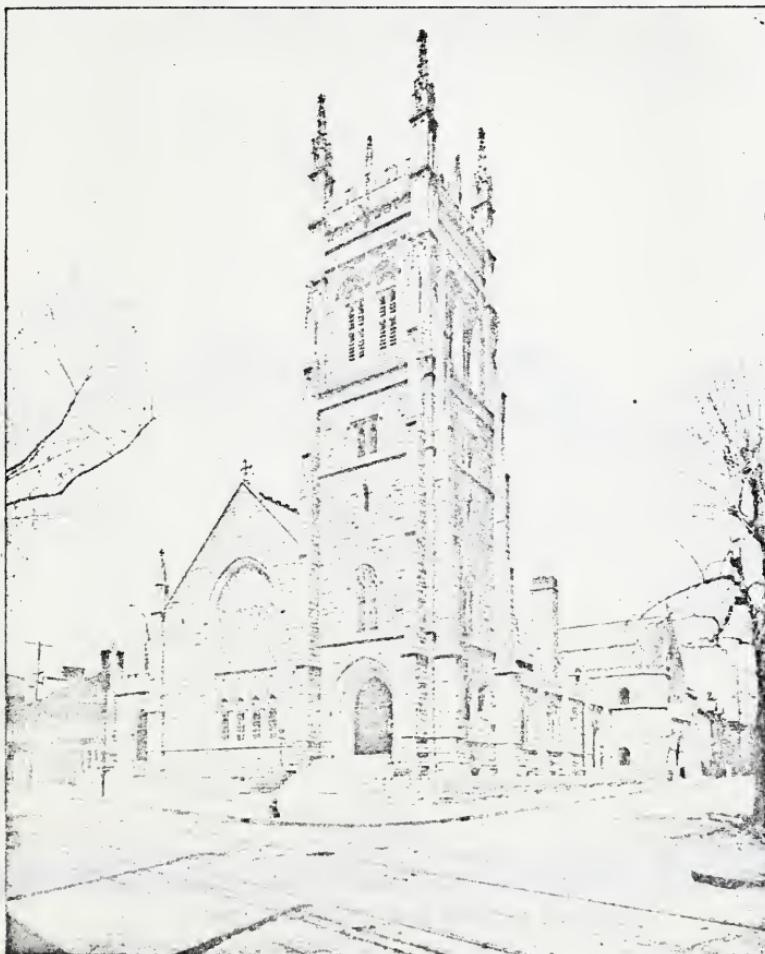
The different ways of counting membership in churches makes it difficult to ascertain, on a common standard, the true numerical strength, yet many thousands of our population—yea, the great majority of our people—are more or less directly under some sort of religious influence.

As to the moral, philanthropic and religious work of these churches, the good they are doing, the evil they are preventing, no estimate can possibly be given. Certain persons may have no use for churches, and they may delight in speaking slurringly of them, but a churchless Germantown would not be the Germantown it is to-day. Property would be less valuable. Town lots in Sodom were not worth much when Mr. Lot left the place.

The value of the work done by the members of these churches in all the past can never be told. Passing over the labors of those in the earliest days, who can estimate the good accomplished by the men in the harness a little over a half century ago? Take the service of the Rev. Jacob Helfenstein, in the Market Square German Reformed Church as it was then; of Dr. Charles W. Schaeffer in St. Michael's Lutheran Church; of Dr. Rodney in St. Luke's Episcopal Church; of Dr. Septimus Tustin in the First Presbyterian Church; of Father Domenic in the Roman Catholic Church; of Dr. John M. Richards in the First Baptist Church; of Newton Heston in the Haines Street Methodist Church, under whose leadership St. Stephen's was organized. Time will never tell the grand results of these men, not to speak of those of their predecessors; nor of such Christian laymen as Samuel Morris, T. Charlton



Henry, Dr. Ashmead, Charles Spencer, Frederick A. Burness, George W. Carpenter, Abraham Martin, and hundreds of others, as well as a host of consecrated women whose names are revered in so many of our homes.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The voluntary religious work, as carried on through individual efforts, by personal visitation in the homes, at the



Almshouse, in the hospital, through the philanthropic institutions and in many other ways, besides the general enterprises under the direct supervision of the churches, reaches an amount whose power and value no language can even outline. Then, too, there is the religious work of the Young



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHURCH

Men's Christian Association, the Women's Christian Association, the Whosoever Gospel Mission, the Salvation Army, and numerous other agencies among Protestants and Catholics, Jews and Gentiles, all operating in our com-





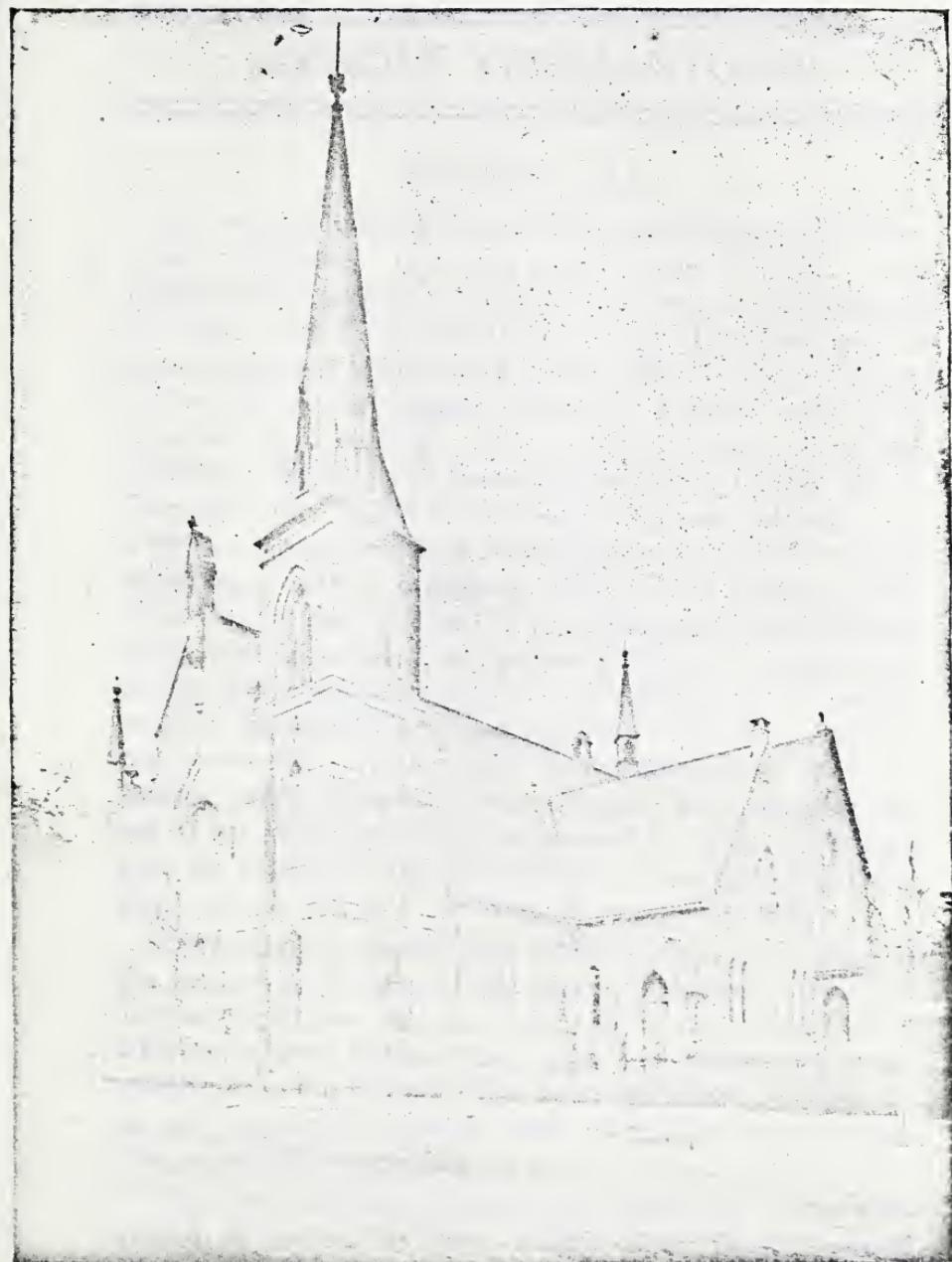
FATHER (BISHOP) DOMENIC



munity under religious lines in one form or another for the betterment of the people. Conscious of all this advantage and blessing, which comes under the purview of religious Germantown, blind indeed must be the citizen or resident who fails to appreciate its value and extent.

Nor am I of those pessimistic spirits who think religious Germantown was of a better character and higher tone in the days that are gone than at the present time. No one honors the past or the men and women of the past more than I. Yet those times were not spotless, nor the people without their faults. In the pulpits and at the altars to-day are as good and as able ministers as ever graced these sacred precincts in the past, as wide-awake and as consecrated pastors as ever walked our streets in the years gone by. Then, too, the rank and file of the churches will measure up to the standard in piety, liberality, charity, devotion, with those who have preceded them. There is no need to blush for religious Germantown. It is not an unflawed crystal. All wish it might be a better brand. We are grateful that it is as gracious and graceful as it is. Its founders were men of religious principle and one of the earliest institutions they established here was the Christian Church.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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## ANTIQUE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XVII.

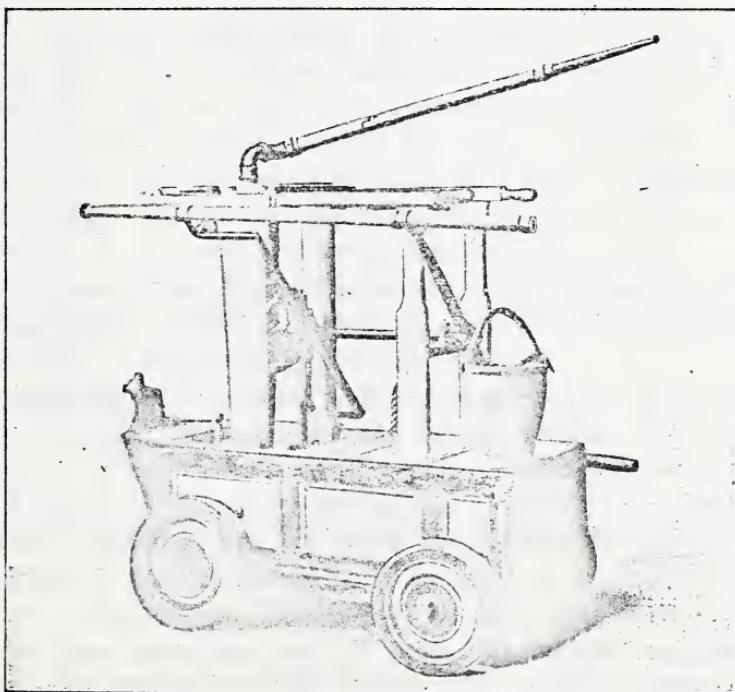
We use the word antique in this connection with a decided preference. It is not synonymous with the words antiquated or ancient. All that is best and to be venerated in those words enter into the true idea of the antique, but some things for which those words stand are not embraced in the title of this chapter. Antiquated carries with it the idea of a back number, out of date, by-gone, out of use, obsolete. There are, of course, illustrations of this idea in Germantown. Nor is it surprising that there should be in a town two hundred and twenty-five years old. It would be strange were it otherwise, since human nature is what it is. In the case of some of the dilapidated old buildings, going to ruin for want of a proper pride, or a suitable care, on the part of those owning or controlling them, or because of legal technicalities in the way, there are, it is true, too many examples of the really antiquated, even upon our leading public streets. Some of these now obsolete and out of use structures could be rescued from the antiquated, and, by reason of the associations connected with them, fitted up and put into the class of antique buildings.

There are, too, illustrations of the antiquated retained in the memories of some of the older inhabitants, which belong to the bygone past, as in the case of the railroad trains which were run between the town and Ninth and Green streets, or in the matter of the old stage coaches which ran up and down our unpaved Main street, between the Exchange and Chestnut Hill.

There are, however, some things belonging to the antiquated, in the true meaning of that term, which, because



of their history, and the way they are kept, come, in our regard for them, under the term antique. Even the old hand fire engine, preserved with so much interest and care in the office of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, is antiquated, but it is also revered as antique in these days. So also with many things sedulously guarded and housed in the museum of our Site and Relic Society in its antique



GERMANTOWN'S FIRST FIRE ENGINE

home in Vernon Park, as well as other objects zealously watched over in private homes and elsewhere.

Every year the evidences of the antiquated are growing fewer in number as they are being transformed into the antique, or removed from existence altogether. We cannot in truth speak of antiquated Germantown, for it is not a



back number, it is not a has been, it is not obsolete. It is up-to-date, abreast of the times, very much in evidence for its enterprise, thrift and progress. Nor can we speak of the place really as ancient. It is so dominated with modern building improvements, with splendidly-kept thoroughfares, and the very latest conveniences, that modern rather than ancient ideas are everywhere prominent. To speak of ancient Germantown might convey the idea that the place was antiquated and would be a misnomer. The better word, therefore, to use as characteristic of the features of which we write is beyond all controversy antique. This word, evermore, carries with it the idea of veneration, because of the associations identified with that it represents, and because of the careful attention given to the preservation of that which we regard as antique.

In a town where there is so much of the antique it would be impossible, within our limits, to call attention to every evidence. A few, therefore, must suffice.

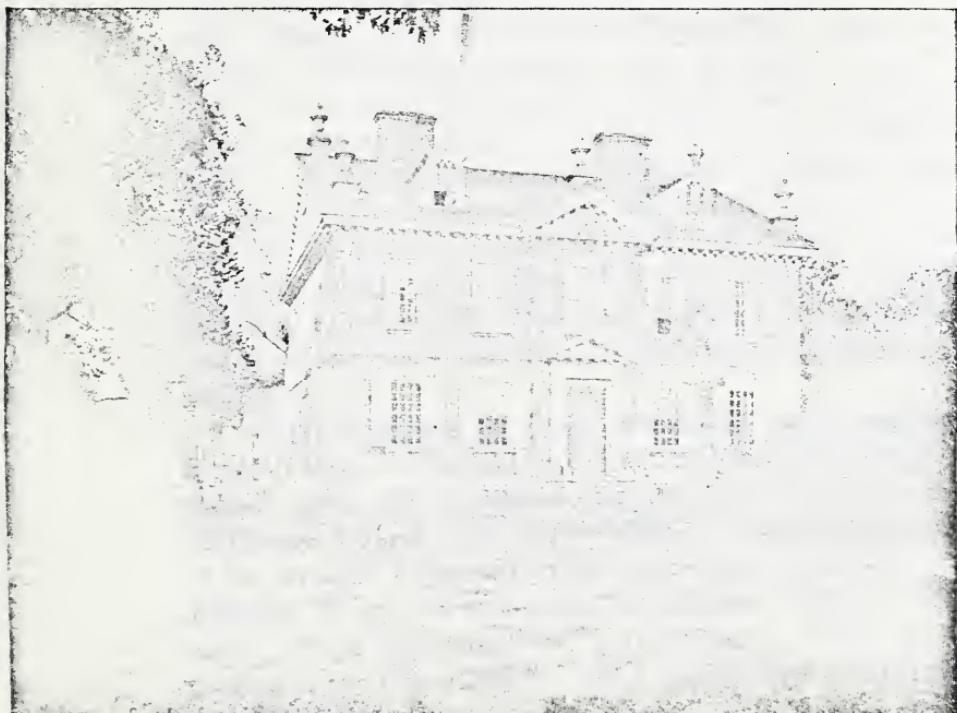
Beginning at "the lower end of Germantown," as it used to be termed, we have the old Logan House, known as Stenton. Here thoughts and evidences of antiquity greet us, because of what has been connected with this property; but the buildings are so cared for by the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames as to impress us favorably with its neat antiqueness. This house, though it has been standing in three centuries, is not a fossil, but antique in appearance. In gazing on the stately old mansion, known as "Loudoun," erected more than a century ago by Thomas Armat, occupying as it does its elevated position near Apsley street, with its magnificent outlook upon the city, reminds forcefully of its resemblance to the antique.

Because to me of the sacred associations connected with the Henry House, opposite Hood's Cemetery, or the Lower Burying Ground, as the home in the early days of Hon. Alexander Henry, a revered Mayor of Philadelphia, his



brother, my old Sunday-school teacher, T. Charlton Henry, and others of that noble and notable family, I am still attracted to the antiqueness of the place, even as others outside of the kindred and immediate friends may not be.

In boyhood days I was always a profound admirer of the Wister House, opposite Queen, or Indian Queen lane, as we used to call it. I remember well the honored father of



CHEW HOUSE

the present occupant, Charles J. Wister, who took a constant pride in perpetuating the antique appearance of the old homestead, a trait his venerable son worthily emulates.

To the lover of the antique perhaps no house in Germantown is looked upon with more veneration than the Morris House, opposite Church lane. Its interesting his-



tory, the painstaking and conserving care of its present proprietor and occupant, Elliston P. Morris, inheriting in this particular the punctilious simplicity of his esteemed father, Samuel B. Morris, it is in reality one of the finest specimens of the really antique among all the residences of the town.

In this connection, I may be permitted to refer to an old cottage, still standing, just back from Church lane on the south, and a square east of Germantown avenue. It is not very sightly. It is not even well preserved. It is in an inferior condition as compared with the days of my boyhood; but to me it is more of an antique than an antiquated structure, because of the very tender associations connected with it. It was in that dear old residence my father, Charles W. Spencer, died more than a half century ago. I might also say the same of one of the older structures on Armat street, in which my mother, Mrs. Mary Spencer, breathed her last. This simply illustrates the fact that association and reverence have much to do with our idea of the truly antique.

I might embrace in these references those finely-preserved ideals of the antique—the Academy Buildings, on School lane; the Pastorius House, next above the First Methodist Church; the Wyck House, on the opposite side of the avenue, supposed to be the oldest in the town; the Johnson House, at one time the largest residence in the town. It is opposite the battleground. Then on said ground is the Chew House, and a goodly host of others we cannot name.

There are churches of larger dimensions, more architectural massiveness than the little Mennonite Meeting House, above Herman street, yet as an illustration of real antique simplicity it certainly attracts the eye. The same may also be said of "the old Dunkard Church," as it used to be called, the Church of the Brethren, situated above Sharpnack street.



In this town we have many illustrations of what might be called the antique, though identified with modern construction. They are in a sense an imitation of antiquity. In this direction we have some fine examples of the antique in architecture, in arrangement in furniture.

All hail, then, to Antique Germantown! a title for which there is abundant evidence, a title which conveys the idea



#### SITE AND RELIC SOCIETY'S MUSEUM

of honor and veneration, due and shown to the many structures and curios worthy of the name, and a title, too, concerning which no citizen need ever blush or offer an apology. Our town is certainly unique in its very antiqueness. Our Site and Relic Society stands for the cultivation and still further development of the antique—a laudable purpose surely.



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## LITERARY GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XVIII.

The term literary carries with it the idea of an acquaintance with literature, a knowledge of letters, or books, one who is versed in general literature. Some are by profession specially literary in their attainments. Their studies and work necessarily take them into a knowledge of all lines of composition, in writing or print, which preserve the results of observation, fancy or thought.

This title, of course, cannot be applied universally to our people, for large numbers are neither inclined towards a literary taste, nor to the attainment of a moulded, rounded literary character. The bread and butter question, early environment and training, as well as many other considerations, have been hindering causes towards culture in the field of literature.

Nevertheless the town has had and has its Literati—its men and women truly worthy of the title literary, some, of course, more deserving than others. A goodly host reside in our midst whose knowledge of books, issued in the past and in the present, is of very wide range. Not simply the names of the books either, but their contents, style, author, reason for publication, scene of the story, or the outlying causes of factors incorporated in the publication. These have a great relish for a strong book, a forceful article in the magazine, or a well-written contribution in the newspaper. There is knowledge, culture, intelligence and instruction in their conversation. There is a literary character given to their homes, to themselves as companions, and to their influence wherever they go.

The large or small private collection of books in many of the homes of our people, and the use made of these



under varied conditions, is an index, in many cases, of the literary force which dominates that abode. Upon the table or on a nearby shelf lies a recent standard publication. Conversation about it is introduced, only to find a marvelous acquaintance already with its contents on the part of its possessors. In these homes, too, there is a remarkable familiarity with leading magazine articles of merit, as well



CHARLES F. JENKINS

as to what is going on in the literary world. We write from the standpoint of a wide personal knowledge on this matter, as we have met in a variety of ways and on so many occasions in this community.

Of course there are large numbers whose lives are so crowded with business and other cares that they have very little time for books and the acquirement of much literary

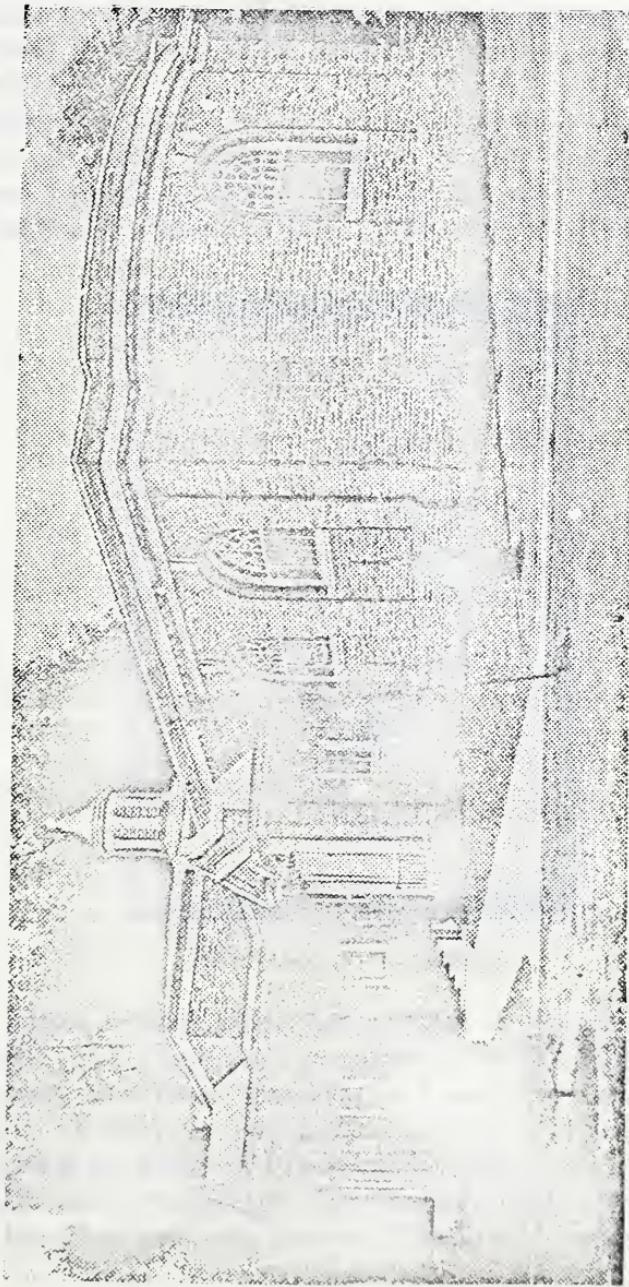


knowledge; nevertheless, it is surprising how much, by the utilization of spare moments, they have attained, and intelligently, too, upon leading subjects with clearness and interest. Germantown has a great host of such people. They do not talk much. They do not write much for the public eye. They are not specially demonstrative. They do not obtrude, yet in the quiet dignity of their own gentle and simple life, in the heart to heart unbend of the social amenities of friendship or acquaintance, one does become impressed with their acquirements in and knowledge of literature.

The existence in our midst of the Friends' Library and Reading Room, of the Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, besides association, club and other libraries, is evidence of a literary taste on the part of the many patrons of these institutions. To sit for a part of a day and watch the coming and going of persons to our public libraries, their examination of works of reference, their return of books read and the taking out of others, awakens the thought that a good amount of literary afflatus is running through the lives of our people, both young and old.

A fine literary taste has ever characterized large numbers of our citizens from our earliest history down through all the years to the present. Of this we have abundant evidence and illustration preserved in the printer's art and noted by varied historians. The very page which our own Charles F. Jenkins devotes to "A Partial Bibliography of Germantown," in his recently published gem, "Guide Book to Historic Germantown," is proof of our position. He mentions twenty different books, and yet, as the author states, the list does not cover the entire field. He also refers to many family "genealogies relating to Germantown," and to a number of "works of fiction" bearing upon the place. A careful perusal of these books, magazine and other articles, as well as many pamphlets, which from time





THE CARNegie FREE LIBRARY (Vernon Park)



to time have been published, will give an immense amount of proof that our town is entitled to the nom de plume of Literary.

Here, too, have lived a number of persons of note and merit for their literary work, as in the case of Watson, whose "Annals of Philadelphia," in the early days, are invaluable and standard works. Here, too, was born Louisa



DR. NAAMAN H. KEYSER

M. Alcott, whose name has become a household word, because of its association as authoress with a large number of books, that have interested and won the hearts of the people, far and near, young and old alike.

Among the ranks of the clergymen, physicians, teachers, lawyers and professional men in other lines, Germantown has been honored with many of fine literary acumen, taste



and ability. The same also may be said of numbers of our representative women. There have been times in our history when literary clubs and societies have been attended with marked interest and success. In the two and a quarter centuries of our history many an evening has been occupied along literary lines and with literary entertainments of a high grade. Large numbers of our citizens, too, have developed a fine literary style in their conversation and correspondence. Of course we have an abundant use of slang phrases, nor is this limited to any particular class of the community. The English language, too, is fearfully abused by many in the words they use, even in ordinary conversation. This seems to be a characteristic of the times. The language of the street is becoming incorporated into that of the home and the school, a course certainly to be regretted and confronted by every lover of the pure and beautiful in the English tongue. While this is true, however, a goodly host of our people afford great pleasure as we listen to their choice and chaste language. Their words are "picked and packed," as Macaulay said of Bunyan. Their construction of sentences is highly complimentary. Their marshaling of words indicates a cultured literary taste. It is an exhilaration and inspiration to hear them talk. There is a perfect literary atmosphere about them, and when with them there is a consciousness of being far above the realm of empty, namby, pamby gossip, in the wide open of an enriched and enjoyable literary environment.



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## PATRIOTIC GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XIX.

We have but to familiarize ourselves with the history of our citizens when abundant facts will suggest and prove the warm love of country, earnest devotion to its support, and constant readiness for its service in time of need. Anterior to the Revolution patriotic fires burned in the hearts and homes of the people. The cause of the defeat of the Continental Army in the Battle of Germantown did not grow out of the absence of an intense love of right and liberty among our residents. Washington knew that our very atmosphere was charged with the spirit of truest loyalty to the American Republic. When the war was over no town adjusted itself more quickly to the new order of things, no community wheeled into line with more unity, and nowhere were there more proofs of genuine patriotism than right here. As a result, and because of his pleasant residence in later and specially honored days, around Germantown there ever clustered a delightful appreciation of the sterling qualities of the people, who in the days which tried men's souls were true to the interests represented, generous in their help to a successful consummation, and unwavering in their decision for the supremacy of the Star Spangled Banner.

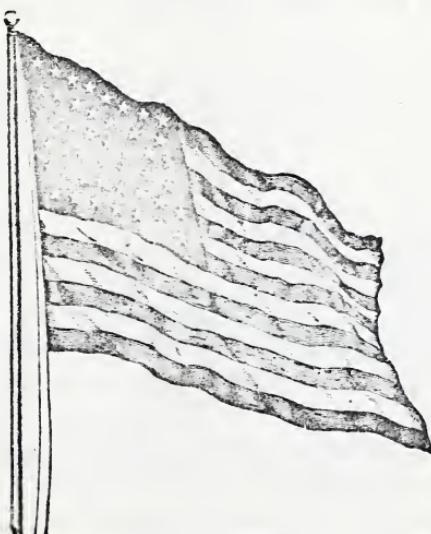
In the War of 1812 the same spirit dominated the people, and love of country prompted to noble deeds of daring until the struggle was settled in favor of our own beloved nation.

In the War with Mexico old General Winfield Scott had no braver supporters nor more heroic soldiers than our own "Germantown Blues." Their heroism shed a lustre of renown over the patriotic spirit of our people.



Coming on to the Civil War, in the early sixties of the last century, where were the fires of patriotism lighted more promptly? Where did they burn more brightly? Where did they shine more constantly? Where did their flames reach to a wider circle than right here in our own home town?

Martial music was in the air. Copperheadism dared not lift its head. The Government must and shall be preserved was the response of Germantown to the firing on Fort



OLD GLORY

Sumter, while sons, husbands, fathers and brothers rallied to the defense of the Republic, ready to die if needs be rather than our nation should perish. All through that terrible ordeal, while a few sympathizers with the secessionists kept up a fire in the rear, the great hosts of our people stood solidly for the principles represented in the old flag.

How royally they remembered and did for the soldier boys at the front; how assiduous and generous was their interest for those in the hospitals, both by personal atten-



tion and contribution, through the Christian and Sanitary Commissions; how many soldiers' families were cared for and cheered in a variety of ways. Knowing, as I did, of the patriotic hospitality and sympathetic statesmanship of the men and women of those days, I take delight, so many years afterward, in placing upon the brow of this town the crown title of Patriotic.

This patriotic love of country, the whole country, too, has assuaged the animosities of those troubled days that in no part of our land to-day does there exist a community



GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

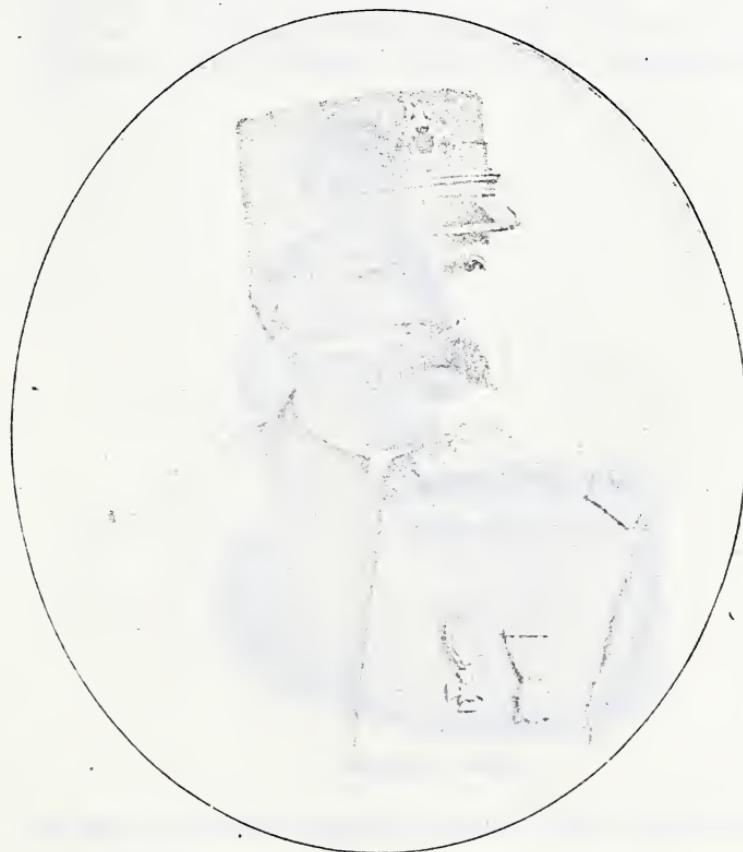
whose heart is more anxious and determined for a united fraternity of the States than right here in our midst. Our motto is, "No North, or South, or East, or West, but one inseparable Union, with Washington as its capital and centre of government." The same spirit was also shown in the late Spanish-American War.

There may, however, be patriotism and statesmanship entirely independent of the military spirit. This country has had a host of patriotic heroes and heroines, who never



smelled powder, who never wore the uniform of a soldier or marine, or the badge of a nurse in naval or army hospital.

A patriot is one who loves his country, is zealously devoted to its support and ever ready to serve it in all honor-



CAPTAIN RYAN

able ways. Germantown has had and has a noble host of such, true as the needle to the pole, whose hearts evermore turn in love and loyalty to the Republic.



The rank and file of our citizens need not to wear a tag to tell how patriotic they are. Their acts and words reveal the story in no unmeaning phrase. A recognized stream of truest patriotism runs through the very heart, home and public life of our people. Our citizens are patriotic. Whether Friend or Churchman, Protestant or Catholic, Hebrew or Gentile, no more loyal lovers of, nor devoted co-operators with, the best interests of the American Repub-



SAMUEL WOLF

lic can be found anywhere than right here in our own community.

Let it not be understood, however, that politician and patriot are synonymous. All patriots are politicians, in that in the highest sense they are interested in the science of government, but all politicians are not patriots. Many politicians are decidedly interested in and are true lovers



of their country in the noblest sense. Some of our most noted patriots have been found in this class. Yet many a person is in politics for a sordid, selfish and sinister motive. Rule or ruin is their motto. Personal aggrandizement rather than patriotic aspiration is their aim and ambition. Covetousness rather than country is the ladder on which they seek to rise and dominate. Germantown has had and has many a politician who has been and is patriotic to the last degree. We are proud of them, and the community appreciates as well as knows their worth. Since human nature is what it is, if here and there have been or are politicians of the lower type, is not to be wondered at. Yet our people as a rule are clean, white-handed, loyal-souled patriots.



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# WASHINGTONIAN GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER XX.

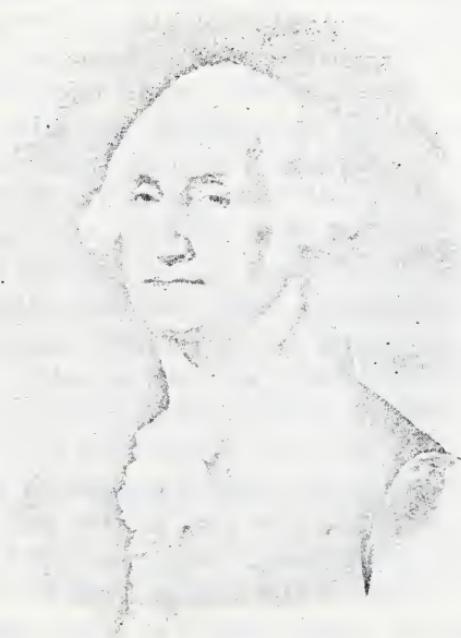
George Washington was not a stranger to Germantown nor the town to him. Charles F. Jenkins, so competent to do it, has rendered a fine service in his "Washington in Germantown." The term Washingtonian applied to Germantown may seem a strange title. Of course we mean by it the incidents and places connected with his life here, and what may have pertained to him after he had passed away.

Prior to the Battle of Germantown he was more or less familiar with the place. There is a record that on the evening of August 23, 1777, he was at "Stenton," the historic home of the Logans, when his army was on its way to oppose the British forces at Brandywine. He is reported to have dined at the place when attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. But his first real connection with the history of the place was the Battle of Germantown, at which he was in personal command.

The fact that he himself planned the American attack of the battle, that he himself personally reconnoitered the situation in advance of the battle, that he was personally on the ground and in command of the forces while the battle raged, and that the very course of his advance and retreat, as well as the very spot where he stood in commanding the struggle, are well known, associate him so closely with the town itself that one cannot even think of the battle without recalling the Commander-in-Chief of the American Army. The plan of the battle, as all experts declare, was one of the very best in the Revolution. That it miscarried was no fault of Washington. The dense fog that came down upon the scene, causing some unforeseen



delays and unfortunate mistakes, were beyond human prevention. While the short, sharp and bloody battle ended differently from what Washington had every reason to anticipate, yet the very defeat in Germantown turned into splendid victories the subsequent sacrifices and efforts of the patriot army under Washington. The Bunker Hill Monument in Boston commemorates a defeat. The Battle



STUART'S WASHINGTON

of Germantown was a defeat; but these defeats so fused and enthused the Continental soldiery and the people that they became stepping stones to endurance, success and final victory at last.

In 1780 a Germantown wagon builder, Mr. John Bringhurst, had the honor of building a "chariot," as it was



called, for Washington, in which the same year Martha Washington rode to Mount Vernon, in Virginia. It cost £210 in gold.

Christopher Ludwig, an old resident of Germantown, who died in 1801 and is buried in the St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery, and who was known as the "Baker-General" to the American Army, was a very intimate friend of Washington, being often entertained by him, had a personal certificate of good conduct from the great patriot. This was dated 1785, and used to hang in the parlor of his home on Haines street, near Chew. Watson, in his "Annals of Philadelphia," claims that Washington, Greene and Knox slept in the house which used to occupy the site of the present National Bank of Germantown. In the rear of what is now 5140 Germantown avenue was situated the building in which it is claimed, by the daughter herself of the artist, Gilbert Stuart, that her father painted his noted portrait of Washington, which is in the possession of the Boston Atheneum. This picture, the most historic, and regarded as the best portrait of the "Father of His Country," adds its fame to the town where the great artist transcribed to canvas the lineaments of that wonderful face.

In the latter part of 1793 and beginning of 1794 Washington, as President of the United States, owing to prevalent disease in the city, had his residence in Germantown, for days and weeks at a time, and in the summer of 1794 he occupied the Morris House, on Germantown avenue, opposite Church lane. This was from July 30 to September 20, and in his cash account of September 24, 1794, is the record of payment of \$201.60 "in full for rent of house, etc., at Germantown."

Leila Herbert, in her book, "The First American, His Homes and His Households," says, in referring to this home: "In the room in the Morris house, looking on the garden, is still a cupboard that was there in 1794, and a



cup and saucer and plate of old India blue china used by the Washingtons." It was during his residence here that the President rode out one day to the Academy, on School lane, and asked one of the students, who subsequently became a revered citizen of the town, "Where is Washington Park, Custis?" This is only one of many incidents reported by those who loved to repeat in detail what they had heard from and seen of their distinguished fellow citizen.



MORRIS HOUSE

In my boyhood days there were still living here old men and women who had a distinct recollection of Washington's residence here and of meeting him upon our streets.

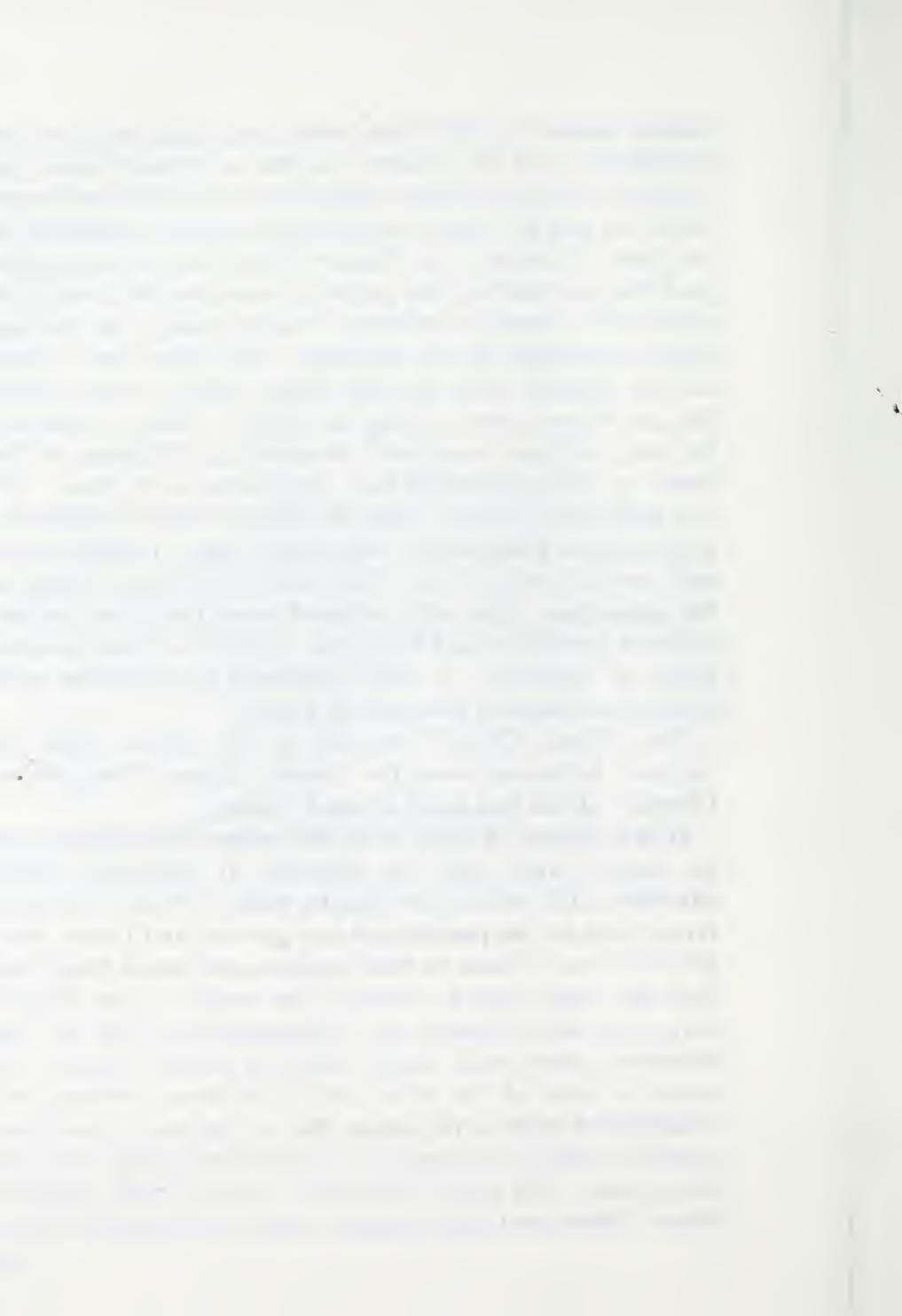
John F. Watson, in his "Annals of Philadelphia," who was a resident of Germantown, has given us a bird's eye view of the President as he lived here. He says: "General Washington, while residing here in 1794, was a frequent



walker abroad up the Main street, and daily rode out on horseback, or in his phaeton, so that everybody here was familiar with the personal appearance of this eminent man. When he and his family attended the English preaching in the Dutch Church at the Market House they always occupied the pew fronting the pulpit. It was also his practice to attend the German preaching, thus showing that he had some knowledge of the language. His home was closed on the Sabbath until the bell tolled, when it was opened just as he was seen coming to church. Many remember his very civil and courteous demeanor to all classes in the town as he occasionally had intercourse with them. He had been seen several times at Henry Fraley's carpenter shop and at Bringhurst's blacksmith shop, talking freely and cordially with both. They had both been in some of his campaigns. His lady endeared herself to many by her uniform gentleness and kindness. Neither of them showed pride or austerity. I could illustrate the assertion with several remembered incidents in proof."

The "Dutch Church" referred to by Watson was the German Reformed, now the Market Square Presbyterian Church. It has had quite a noted history.

It is a matter of local pride that when Washington and his family lived here he attended at least one of our churches. He walked our streets, rode over our thoroughfares, lived on the products of our gardens and farms, mingled with our citizens in their business and social functions, had the most noted portrait ever made of him painted here, and was himself the Commander-in-Chief of the American Army as it fought here the historic battle. No doubt in some of his walks and rides about Germantown Washington went over again the scenes and roads over which he had led his army in the days associated with the Revolution. The Chew House, the Logan House, the Billmeyer House, and other homes, would have special fascina-



tion for him. On these occasions memory would be active because of what to his own knowledge had transpired in these locations.

It would seem as if Germantown, out of patriotic appreciation and pride, ought to do something more pronounced to signalize the honored position which Washington by his connection with the place has conferred upon it. We have, it is true, the "Washington Tavern," at 6239 Germantown avenue, the name by which it has been known since 1793; "Washington Lane," which might be modernized with the name of "Road" instead of "Lane."

But why might there not be a movement inaugurated looking ultimately toward the securing of the Morris House and property, to be perpetuated as a memorial of our country's first President? The Morris family, both the father and the son, who is at present owner and occupant, deserve great credit for the way they have preserved it; yet should there be any danger of this interesting care being discontinued steps should be taken for the careful preservation as a Washington memorial of this historic mansion. Its conservation and its environment ought to be secure beyond all possible peradventure.

If Morristown, New Jersey; Mount Vernon, Virginia; Valley Forge, in this State, and other places in other States, can have their Washington memorials, why cannot Germantown, which is so rich in association with the name of this immortal patriot, and that of his noble wife, Martha Washington, have its memorial too? Can we not have a movement inaugurated that shall ultimately secure the end proposed? Let us have some mecca here worthy of the man, worthy of Germantown, that shall symbolize and set forth the great regard and interest which must ever gather increasing reverence, honor and truest patriotic spirit for the name of George and Martha Washington.



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## ATHLETIC GERMANTOWN

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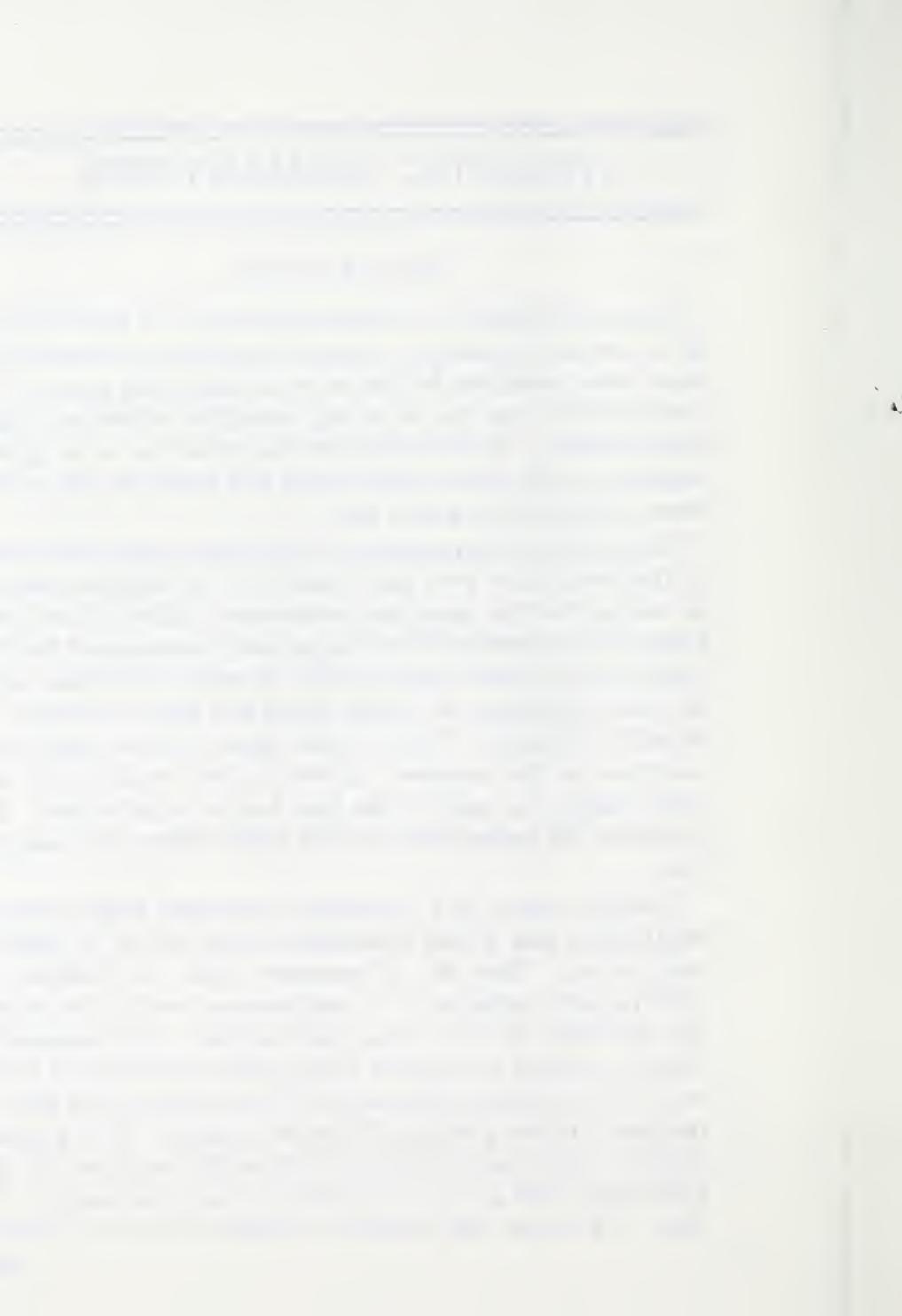
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### CHAPTER XXI.

The word Athletic is of wide application and significance. In its ancient meaning in Greece and Rome it referred to those who contended for the prize in the public games. It carries with it the idea of strong, muscular, robust and vigorous exercise. It covers the physical practices in the gymnasium, as well as the varied sports and games in which the human body has its active part.

The people of Germantown, in the highest and best sense of the term, have ever been interested in athletics; some, of course, for the sport and amusement afforded and enjoyed; while others still for the physical exercise and health culture thus placed within reach. In some directions, and on some occasions, no doubt, there has been an abuse of athletic privileges. Persons have gone too far and have overdone in the exercise. Herein is the trouble with so many things, not only in this line, but in varied others. It is not in the proper use but the abuse where the danger lies.

Athletic sports and gymnastic exercises, under proper regulations, and within reasonable limits, are to be highly commended. They are of immense value. A well-developed physical organism is a desideratum worthy the highest ambition of every man and woman. All reasonable efforts to secure it, whether in the indoor exercises of winter or the out-door opportunities of the summer and fall of the year, are not a waste of time or expense. It is a great thing to take time, by proper and needful exercise, to be healthy as well as to be absorbed to become wealthy or wise. Of course the system of athletics may be grossly



abused, and it is thus wrongly put forward when used for the sole purpose of gambling, brutal exhibition and the cultivation of the baser passions. The fact that there are those who thus abuse the system is not the fault of athletics, nor should the desire for a true athletic development be curtailed or cynically criticized because of these wrong exemplifications of it.

Many a man, and woman, too, might have been better equipped for the duties and demands of life if they had



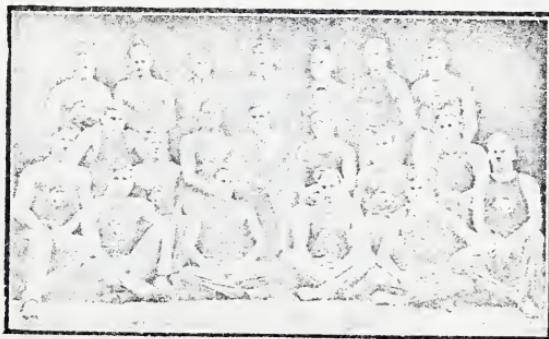
A. J. BIRCHALL

taken more time for exercise in the open air or in the use of some form of athletic culture even indoors. We may be weakened by room-atism as well as rheumatism. Among the first lessons we ought to learn is how to preserve the soundness and vigor of our bodies. It is better to be poor from the loss of property than poor from the loss of health. Many a one is now suffering the penalty of inattention to the demands of their physical nature for which they would



gladly give liberally to have one little drop of rejuvenating elixir that would restore the vitality and bloom of earlier years. The body, the mind and the heart should be exercised harmoniously together. Walking, climbing, leaping, swimming, ball playing, yea, and all forms of athletic exercises, under reasonable control, are the foes of dyspepsia, insomnia, and a thousand other evils resultant from the non-observance or violation of nature's laws.

True athletics raise that bodily activity which is essential not only to preserve health, but necessary to put the human frame at its very best, to the dignity of a positive



Y. M. C. A. LEADERS' CORPS

duty. Its aim is to keep from sinking into the final sleep while the heart is yet pulsating in life's bright forenoon. Our townspeople, as a rule, have not been blind to these facts. Hence a warm encouragement to, a deep interest in, and a generous patronage of all true athletic sports and exercises have and do meet with favor.

There are private homes in the town equipped with excellent arrangements for athlete development along all lines of physical culture. In the club houses, too, more or less attention is given to the furnishing of opportunity for



bodily exercise in such direction as will be helpful to muscular strength. Our Young Men's Christian Association, under the proper safeguard and restriction, furnishes one of the finest gynnasiums in all this section of the country, with ample facilities to be utilized for the successful betterment of every muscle in the body. Other institutions, too, have provided excellent apparatus, even if not so diversified and extensive, for the attainment of the same results.



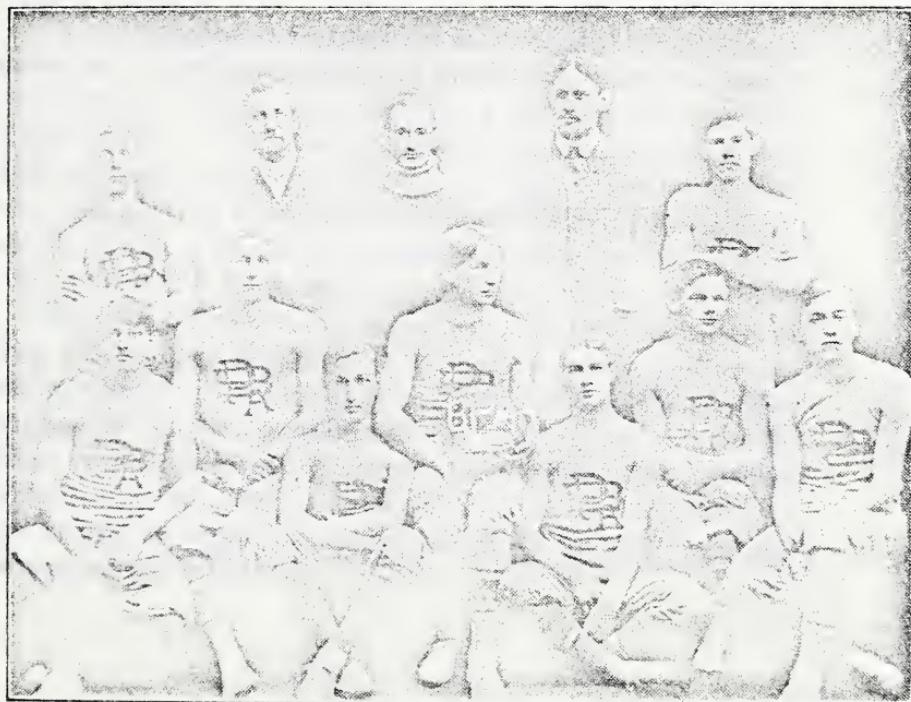
A GERMANTOWN BASE BALL TEAM

Then the large and ample grounds in different parts of the town for use in the varied forms of ball playing in the open season of the year indicate very clearly the wide interest that is taken in these athletic diversions, while in the winter time skating, coasting, and all the avenues for robust and reasonable exertion, are sufficient to satisfy all claims.



With the growing recognition of the benefits accruing from the judicious use of these pastimes there will be an increase of their facilities and an advance in their suitable use and utilization. True athletics have come to stay.

Athletic Germantown has many experts and amateurs in the varied gymnastic and physical fields of even national if



A GERMANTOWN BASKET BALL TEAM

not international fame. By patient practice and persistent endeavor they have risen, in their special lines, to their recognized strength, skill and superiority. Many of these, too, in the development of the physical man, have so subordinated the animal of the natural man by the supremacy of the mental and the moral in their natures, that to-day they



are the men who are commanding the respect, admiration and confidence for their strength and excellence of character, as well as for their healthy, vigorous and comely physique. There is something magnificent, majestic and magnetic in finely-statured, thoroughly-developed and well-rounded manhood or womanhood. It is the admiration of all.

We well remember in boyhood days in all this region how horseback riding was widely in vogue as a means of physical exercise. There was something exhilarating and fascinating about it. It is yet practised to some extent, but nothing like it was fifty or more years ago. Of course there was ball playing then and other exercises, but not carried on along the scientific and organic lines as at the present time, nor to the same extent.

From the boys of Germantown, brimful of boyology as they are, to their gray-haired sires, the old boys yet young and sprightly of heart; from the girls, too, in their bright young life, to the venerable dames, mature and matronly, there is a widespread interest and devotion to athletics, whose outcome, under proper control, will be tributary to the health, strength and happiness of the coming men and women of the future.



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# JOURNALISTIC GERMANTOWN

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## CHAPTER XXII.

The history in detail of Germantown journalism would make a large and interesting book, whether written up from the standpoint of the men, boys and women who have been identified with it, or from that of the material work connected with its conduct, or from that of the character and continuance of the various publications issued. More than one Germantown journalist could have written or might now write a thrilling story on "What I have discovered in the publication of a newspaper." In the limits of this article we cannot, of course, go into details, but we can write enough to show that Journalistic Germantown has had and still has its important place in the life, not only of the old village, the revered borough, but also as a dominant part of a great city. As early as 1739 we find the beginnings of journalism in this place.

Watson, in the second volume of his "Annals of Philadelphia," says: "The Germantown newspaper, by C. Sower, was printed but once a quarter, and began in the year 1739; and what was curious, he cast his own types and made his own ink. It eventually was printed monthly, but from and after the year 1734 it was printed every week, under the title of the 'Germantown Gazette,' by C. Sower, Jr., and was not discontinued till some time in the war."

The next movement in issuing a newspaper here was in 1830, when Germantown was but a village. Philip R. Freas started what he called the "Village Telegraph," and later on he gave to it the name of "Germantown Telegraph." At the time it occupied an important and commanding position not only in the then county of Philadelphia, but



throughout the country. He continued to edit the paper until 1885. He died revered and honored for his journalistic life of more than half a century in this town, April 1, 1886. I remember well when a boy how we used to welcome to our home the weekly visits of the "Germantown Telegraph." The stories on its first page have often interested my youthful ears. In student life, as it came regularly to me, it always brought interest and cheer from my home town. Those were the days when its founder, Philip R. Freas, or "Major Freas," as he was familiarly known, was its editor and proprietor, when John A. Wagenseller, later on so well known as an honored and prominent citizen of Germantown; William M. Yeakel, William U. Butcher, and others, who became equally famous, were identified with its publication. It was a paper which had a wide local circulation, as well as a far-reaching subscription list all over the country. Farmers took it for its valuable agricultural suggestions as well as for its interesting literary merit, while its weekly letter signed "Penn" contained one of the best commentaries on passing events of importance in Philadelphia ever published. Its local columns were well-filled with all occurrences of prominence in the town. Of course, the weekly newspaper of those times had a field which has since been materially changed, while the supply of magazine and other forms of publication have been so increased that the domain of the weekly newspaper has been vastly limited. Yet the days for such a paper have not passed. We have our great and cheap city dailies, but they do not and cannot go into the local details of outlying communities as the local weekly can and does. Amidst all these changes, however, the "Germantown Telegraph" still lives.

When the first number of the paper appeared there were only twenty States in this Republic, with a population of less than 13,000,000. Now there are forty-six, with a popu-



lation of over 80,000,000, not to include our new colonies.

Along in the early sixties came the publication of the "Germantown Chronicle," by G. Wharton Hammersley, a very interesting daily paper. It was changed from an evening to a morning paper, and was the first attempt, so far as I know, to issue a daily paper in the town. The proprietors afterwards removed to the city. The experiment was not a success and its publication was discontinued. Connected with this enterprise there was considerable loss, as much money was put in to make its publication a success.

Experiment was not a success and its publication was discontinued. Connected with this enterprise there was considerable loss, as much money was put in to make its publication a success.

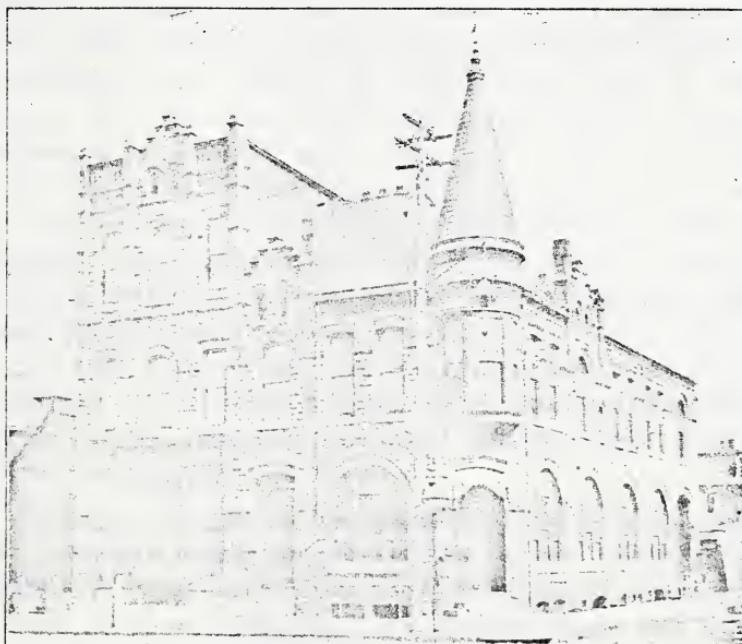
In 1871 Walter H. Bonsall began the publication of the "Germantown Guide," and for more than a third of a century, as its editor and proprietor, he has continued to publish it regularly every week. It is a neat, clean, reliable, unsensational sheet.

Later on Henry Smith began the publication of the "Germantown Gazette," Horace F. McCann and Alexander Savage the publication of the "Germantown Independent." Upon the death of Mr. Savage, Mr. McCann continued to issue the paper. He subsequently bought out the stock and good will of the "Gazette," and then issued the weekly under the combined name of "Germantown Independent-Gazette," a paper of which to-day he is proprietor and editor-in-chief, with Harvey B. Smith as the managing editor. It is an enterprising, wide-awake local journal, having already reached Volume XXVI in the history of its publication.

Then there is "The News," published by William Willans & Co. It is a local and independent journal, and is now in the ninth volume of its publication.



Of course there have been other efforts to establish a newspaper in the town, among which we might name the "Weekly Journal," by Henry B. Dutton, but these movements have not been attended with success, so that as in many other towns in the country, Germantown has had a number of funerals to bury newspapers whose publication here has been attended with failure.



GERMANTOWN INDEPENDENT-GAZETTE BUILDING

These have filled a place and rendered a service, but for a variety of reasons with a few exceptions they have been shortlived. A glance over the pages of each issue of the newspapers issued in Germantown from 1739 down to the present time would awaken great interest and be suggestive of much that would be amusing and instructive, as well as inspiring and encouraging.



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## SUBURBAN GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXIII.

For more than two hundred years Germantown has been one of the most noted and beautiful of the suburbs of Philadelphia. Anterior to the Revolution it was regarded and even then boasted of its palatial residences, whose surroundings were pictures of delight and scenes of enjoyment. Ere the close of the eighteenth century it took on increased prominence in this direction. The courtly social life of many of its families, with their homes in the midst of broad acres, or set within confines of small lawns and gardens, have come down to us in the written records or reliable traditions of those earlier days. Thus this suburban idea had much to do in the early growth and character of the town. It met with encouragement and favor in every direction. It was then a luxury to get out into the peaceful quiet of this attractive, healthful suburb, away from the noise and humdrum of the city.

Perhaps in no part of Philadelphia are there more attractive suburban homes anywhere than in this Twenty-second ward. We pass these upon our best highways, avenues and streets in every direction. As we look upon and admire them we are oftentimes reminded of Cowper's couplet,

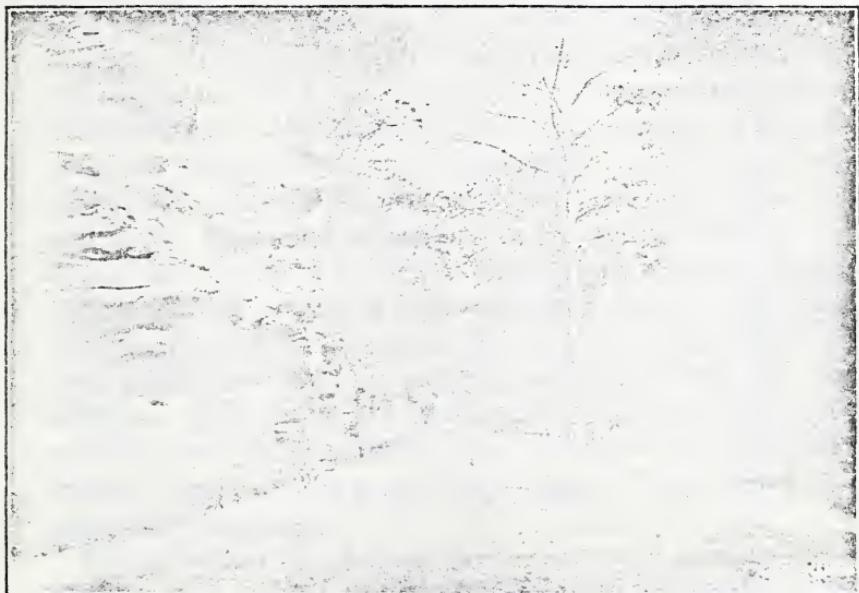
"Suburban villas, highway-side retreats,  
Delight the citizen."

Their environment, embracing tasteful landscape, beautiful lawn, harmonious decoration, all tributary to suburban life, lend their charm to all lovers of the artistic in nature and to all admirers of the architectural in construction.

The celebrated "Cottage Row," on Germantown avenue, above Penn street, and many other marked houses in dif-



ferent parts of the town, still survive as illustrations of this early idea. To me these are landmarks of the suburban life of the place of more than half a century ago. It was this idea that started up the homes on Tulpehocken street, Walnut lane, Greene street, Price street, Church lane, Locust avenue, and other prominent thoroughfares, long before Chelten avenue was even thought of.



#### WISSAHICKON DRIVE

During the first half of the nineteenth century one of the great factors, helpful in the building up and continuance of this suburban idea, was the construction of the "Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad." With its Philadelphia depot at Ninth and Green streets, it afforded more rapid transit for merchants and others to live out in the country, even while they conducted business in the city. Of course, at first the facilities were very meagre as



compared with what they are at present. Yet they served their purpose and their time to the extent needed.

The stations of the Norristown branch of this road at Queen street and School lane afforded the needed opportunities for locating homes accessible to them. Thus was the area on the west side of the town largely brought into its improved conditions. We well remember many of the early residents in this locality. The Germantown branch, with its Fisher's, Wister's, Shoemaker Lane Stations, and its depot at Main and Price streets, added largely in drawing people out from the crowded city to make their homes in this suburb. Subsequently there was a station at Church lane, but this and the one at Shoemaker's lane (now Penn street) were combined, after the road came under the control of the Reading Company, into the Wingohocking Station, a name given to it after Wingohocking Creek, a stream which used to run down where Belfield avenue is located. The opening of the Chestnut Hill branch, in the early fifties, added wondrously to the encouragement of the suburbs. Then came the final removal from the old depot at Main and Price streets to its present site on Chelten avenue, again opening up other parts of the town for suburban residences.

The suburban life of these earlier days was perhaps more distinct than it is at the present time, for the death or removal of these early residents have put the properties they improved on to the market to be occupied by another class of homes entirely, more compact, and in modern improvement, more convenient and comfortable in many respects. What heretofore had been farm land and forest was purchased by these early comers from the city, who erected thereon their homes, with their surrounding lawns and gardens, of large or less dimensions, according to the taste and wealth of the proprietors or newcomers. With the coming here of the Pennsylvania Railroad still other parts



of the town area were opened up to this same suburban idea, which has been most abundantly and beautifully exemplified.

With all the many distinctively suburban features of the past, there is no finer modern illustration of it than in the plan and building up of the part known as Pelham. Here suburban life is most gloriously perpetuated and eluci-



A BEAUTIFUL SUBURBAN SCENE

dated. Art and architecture, landscape arrangements, arboriculture, horticulture and floriculture have been made tributary to the dominating thought.

As in all the past, this feature has ever been conspicuous in every movement for the building up of the town, and is to-day one of the all prevailing ideals in many a brain; so



we believe the time will never come when Germantown will cease to be prominently suburban. The famous Lincoln Drive, and other kindred arrangements embraced by park or boulevard, will help to perpetuate the idea.

Among the delights of this suburban life is the privilege of walking or riding out and observing its striking characteristics, pleasing beauties and endless varieties. Next to the joy of possessing them is the privilege of viewing them. This favor is open to all, and in the twenty-one square miles embraced in the territorial area of the Twenty-second ward are many avenues along which parties may walk and ride, every moment and every glance rewarded by scenes that put one in love and rapture with all that suburban life can be freighted, to give satisfaction to the eye, gratification to the taste, recuperation to the mind and exhilaration to all the physical powers.

This Twenty-second ward is still rich in open fields and ample groves, with running brooks and shady nooks, with its indescribable and unapproachable rural Wissahickon, its picturesque Vernon Park, its prospective Cliveden Battle Ground, and many other ideal attractions, all conducive to and examples of a fine suburban life.

There may be some, who in their sordidness see only waste in all this expanse, expense and arrangement, just as the man gazing for the first time at Niagara Falls exclaimed, "What a waste of water power." But there is a goodly host, who, rising above all merely commercial values, see that the preservation of this suburban idea is the right thing for Germantown.

Connected with all the advantages and desirableness of this suburban life are other conditions here worthy of consideration. We have all the conveniences, facilities and comforts of the city, as in reality we are a part of the great municipality, even while we are in the suburbs and have all that can be suggested or wished for in suburban life.



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## CIVIC GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXIV.

While the word civic is old and was early introduced into the service of the English language, perhaps at no time in its history has it been more frequently used and utilized than during the past few weeks and months, especially in this vicinity. A study of Germantown, therefore, along the line as suggested by the title civic will be up-to-date. It is a word which relates to our civic affairs, to the concerns of a given community, city, State or nation. It appertains to civic life in distinction from a military, ecclesiastical or official state. It relates to rights and remedies sought by civil action instead of criminal procedure. It seeks to enforce the rights and redress the wrongs of an individual, company or community in a way without involving criminal action. These definitions, illustrations and suggestions indicate the wide scope covered by this word. Fortunately, it is a choice, chaste and classical word. It is a good word to use and absorb into one's catalogue of terms utilized.

The use of this adjective in connection with nouns relative to the characteristics, conditions and convictions of the people will further reveal its reach of application, adaptation and accentuation. Take, for example, the term civic righteousness, relating to the rightness of the civil life of the community in all its forms; the term civic honesty, appertaining to the absolute integrity of all dealings in connection with the conduct of civil affairs; the term civic purity, having reference to the highest regard for a life which strictly follows the requirements of the moral law and the rigid demands of a pure nature as well as an unseared conscience; the term civic cleanliness in all its



wide ramifications as it relates to the individual, the family, the home, the community, in its bearings on personal comfort, health, convenience, the public thoroughfare and general good of all. Along this same avenue of thought also is the term civic interest—the taking of a deep, constant, personal interest in all the civil affairs of the community on the part of every individual citizen, as well as the almost kindred term of civic responsibility, the feeling of a conscious personal responsibility for the management and condition of the concerns which are vital to the good name, the right conduct and the proper status of the community.

From the viewpoint of these various positions thus mentioned what must be the conclusion relative to Civic Germantown? We are not blind to the many good things which may be said in commendation of the interest and position of our people in the conduct and status of all that pertains to our civil life. Perhaps in this respect we stand as high as any community with the same conditions we have. A goodly host do take a living, constant, practical interest in all civic affairs. There is a personal pride on the part of many along these lines. Some do it because, as we say, it is their business to do it. That is what they are hired to do. They are paid for what they do. This is a low and sordid way of looking at this business. No money value can be placed upon the services of some of those to whom is specially committed this work. They take a personal interest, manifest an individual concern and do an amount of thinking, as well as painstaking, in the line of civil life in which they are specially employed that is worthy of our highest commendation and appreciation. This is true of many of our police officers, postal clerks and carriers, firemen and other public functionaries. All may not be perfect or blameless, but as a class and as a rule we might be served by much worse men than we are.



It may be stated as a fact that the civic conditions of a community will not rise any higher or be any better than is the felt civic interest and responsibility of the citizens themselves. Civic Germantown is just what the civic life of its own citizens make it—nothing more and nothing less.

Perhaps there can be no better way of cultivating what



TOWN HALL

may be called the "Germantown spirit"—a spirit that is proud of the place, that believes in the town, that stands for its good name, that exalts all that is commendable in it—than the encouragement of a high-toned, enthusiastic, enterprising, liberal-minded civic spirit. Derelictions there



may be in our civic affairs. Unflawed crystals are not produced in the mines of our present human life. Some of the outs in the conduct of our civil concerns would like to be the ins. If these changes came, perhaps those who are now out would do no better if they got to be the ins. These conditions have continued through all the past; they continue still. There have been improvements—great improvements—vast expenses made necessary, involving large



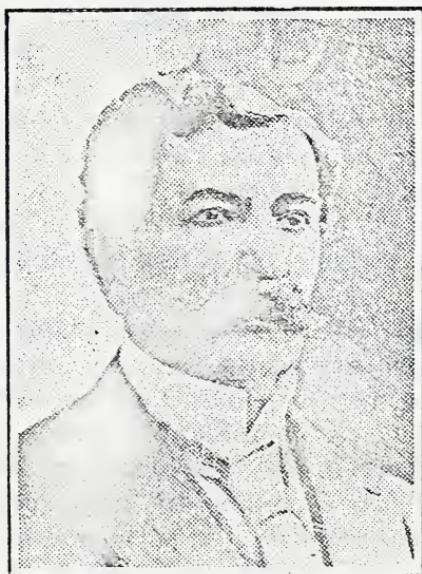
HON. ALEXANDER HENRY

expenditures, but we have something to show and to enjoy for all this.

As one thinks of Germantown fifty and more years ago, with its unpaved streets, dark lanes, miserable sidewalks, and other conditions familiar in those days, and looks upon it at present with its miles of paved avenues, excellent sewers, splendid sidewalks and other improvements, many



certainly have been taking an interest in its civic welfare. True, these have cost money and imposed taxes, yet how much property has advanced in value. Very few if any would want to sell their property for the price at which it is taxed. All things considered, then, all prejudice laid aside, a fair estimate made upon facts and conditions as they exist, Civic Germantown will compare very favorably with the civil life of any other similar community.



HON. ALFRED C. HARMER

A recent study into the history and work of the Business Men's Association of Germantown has convinced me very strongly that we have within our borders no organization and no body of men which is doing more for the honor, development and correct rightness of Civic Germantown than this band of our citizens, with W. H. Paramore as the President; C. M. Siefken, Vice-President; John J. Kenney,



Secretary, and Frederick Studenmund, Jr., Treasurer. The Board of Directors of this Association, too, are men who have proved their civic interest in the town.

This body, in a quiet yet positive and inexpensive way, is ever watching for the best interests of the town in all its civic as well as commercial affairs. Its principles are based on right views and it has a far-reaching constituency. Under very auspicious circumstances it had its beginning in 1896, while its organic life took positive shape in January, 1897, with Hiram T. Parker as its first president, and its present efficient secretary in the same position then. During the more than twelve years of the life of this body in suggestion, in active participation and in practical results achieved, it has served the civic interests of the town remarkably well. It is neither a political nor a religious organization, yet its active spirits are personally identified in the political as well as the religious welfare of the place. Men of all religious creeds and of all political faiths here meet, meditate and mould for the highest good of Civic Germantown, as well as for that fraternity in business among the merchants and the people which adds its influence and mutual helpfulness to the civil life of the place.

Another important body, the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Improvement Association, is also doing a superb work in the betterment of our material conditions, along lines helpful to a true civic pride. The officers of this wide-awake organization are: President, S. A. Jellett; Vice-Presidents, C. F. Jenkins and Samuel Mason; Secretary, W. H. Emhardt, Jr.; Treasurer, J. H. Ritter; while those co-operating with them are in fullest accord with the objects receiving attention.



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## HOSPITABLE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXV.

Hospitality carries with it the idea of receiving and entertaining strangers or guests with kindness and without reward. It means cordiality and generosity to guests. For this characteristic the people of Germantown have an established reputation. In the early days the first settlers marvelously illustrated this trait in their entertainment of emigrants from the fatherland. On their arrival at the port of Philadelphia our citizens would meet them, bring them out to Germantown and provide for them here, as best they could until the guests removed to the locality secured for their settlement. In fact, this kind of procedure has continued through all the years, down to the present time, perhaps not on so broad a scale as in the times above referred to, because the conditions and necessities are different. Yet the principle has been exemplified in a variety of ways, even if the sphere of the action has been more limited.

Many friends and kinsfolk have thus been welcomed and entertained as they have arrived upon American shores from their native countries. This hospitableness, too, has been as bountiful as it was beautiful and as continued as it was kind-hearted. There are those yet living within our borders who well remember, either the story or the fact, of the gracious hospitality in the homes of their ancestors, some of whom were kept poor by the generous open house policy they maintained, wherein every newcomer was made to feel the homeful welcome extended.

The traditions and record of this open-heartedness during the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth cen-



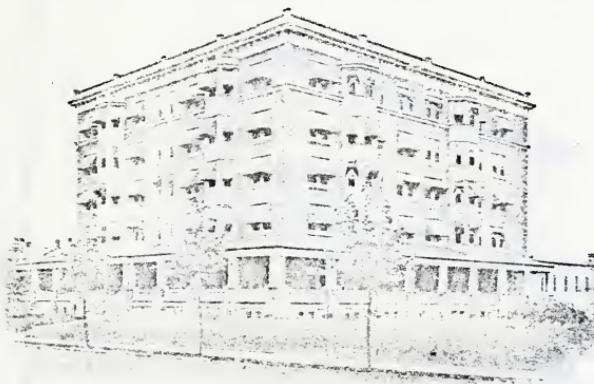
turies have come down to us with all their genial pleasantness and courteous felicity. While in some special cases this was lavish indeed for the times, yet it was so managed as to be in no way offensive. As we first recall it in the early fifties of the last century we remember well the profound impression it made upon our youthful mind. The amount of inter-visiting and entertaining then was widely practised and abundantly reciprocated. Families would and did greatly inconvenience themselves in order to exemplify the principle of being "given to hospitality." On the occasion of holidays, anniversaries and annual meetings, the entertaining homes were exuberant. Cordiality and welcome were in the air. In the hospitality of those days there was perhaps less of the stilted, more of the simplicity, a satisfaction in entertaining guests with the plain substantials of life. In the entertainment for special religious gatherings in those days there was more of the home life interblended; that is, many homes would be open for the guests, and to these, in little companies; they would go for their meals as well as for their lodgings. This feature now, of course, is not so prominent, but the grace of hospitality is not dying out. Great changes have, of course, come. Families have not now as then their kitchen gardens, where they raised so much of fruit and vegetables. Now everything almost has to be bought. The cost of living is greater. Rents are higher, and it is not so easy now to have the guest room in the home as it was a half century and more ago.

Yet let there be any religious anniversary held in Germantown, let there be an annual gathering of any of the fraternities, let there meet here any large company where fellowship and friendship are required; these elements of character will be illustrated and our people will be ready to demonstrate their affability and courteous hospitality. Bring to Germantown a Methodist Conference, a Baptist



Association, a Presbyterian Assembly, a Lutheran Synod, an Episcopalian Diocesan gathering, a Roman Catholic Convention, a Congregational Union, or a company of any other religious body and the hospitality of the people will brim over to meet the exigencies of the occasion. The same conditions would also be exhibited towards the gatherings of other than strictly religious bodies. Secular, social, fraternal, scientific, professional, educational assemblies meet with a kindly treatment.

Who can ever forget the hospitality of this town as manifested during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865? As the



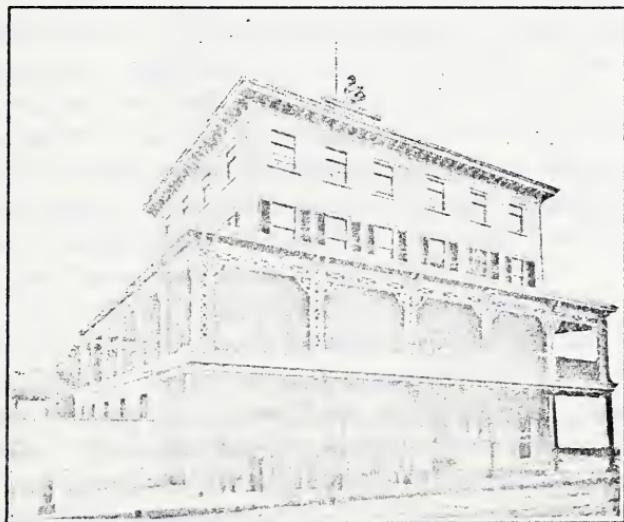
THE DELMAR

“Boys in Blue” went forth in defense of their country, what an hospitable send-off was extended to them; and as wounded or as visitors when they came within our borders during the progress of the Rebellion, what a welcome and kindness was evermore shown. When the war was all over, and they came back, “all that was left of them,” they were received with open hands and generous hearts.

In other ways, too, this spirit has been shown. When our youth have gone forth to prepare in varied schools or



in other fields for life's great work, as they have returned from time to time to the dear old town, to find, perchance, no father's house in existence to receive them and no mother's home open to welcome them, how generously they have been invited and made to feel at home in the residences of other kinsfolk or acquaintances upon which they had no claim. The memories of these generous-hearted friends can never be obliterated, but will evermore be associated with the fact that the people of Germantown are as a rule hospitable.



THE WHITE SWAN

No one can think of and visit the many and varied philanthropic institutions and agencies of this community without being favorably impressed with the hospitality of the place. Take the generous, open-handed, widely-extended work of our Germantown Hospital, whose very name accords with that of hospitableness, and it is indeed a veritable hospice to many a poor sufferer. Our Whosoever Gospel Mission stands for hospitality along lines where it



is often most needed, as does also our Germantown Relief Society, not to speak of many other agencies. What stranger can ever enter the buildings of our Young Men's Christian Association, or of our Women's Christian Association, and other kindred edifices, without feeling, in the grip of welcome extended, the hospitality of our people?

The same is true of our Masonic fraternity, our Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and other secret orders, which stand for friendship and fellowship. Our churches, too, as a rule, are centres of a cordial, Christian hospitality, while over the entrance way to many of our private homes may be written the word Hospitable, yea, and a goodly host of our people can rightfully be badged with this same title. In this respect we shall find what we are looking for. If we have faith in, and an admiration for our town, we shall see on every hand many examples of all that is claimed for it in this article. If, on the contrary, we are dominated by a cynical, faultfinding disposition, we may not see it through the same eyes as does the writer of this.

The most recent exhibition of this hospitality was given in the entertainment extended to the Pennsylvania German Society, which on that occasion held its anniversary here. What could have been more cordial, generous, hospitable? The quiet dignity exhibited, the almost classic culture displayed, the evident local pride exemplified, made the visit of the members of that society one never to be forgotten. As a host the entertainers played a royal part, and the laudations of the guests confirmed all that can possibly be claimed for the town's hospitality.

This very hospitable spirit has had its share in the growth and the homelike feeling so strongly prevalent throughout our borders. From personal knowledge, and a more than half century of observation, we can claim that Germantown is "given to hospitality."



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## HOMOGENEOUS GERMANTOWN

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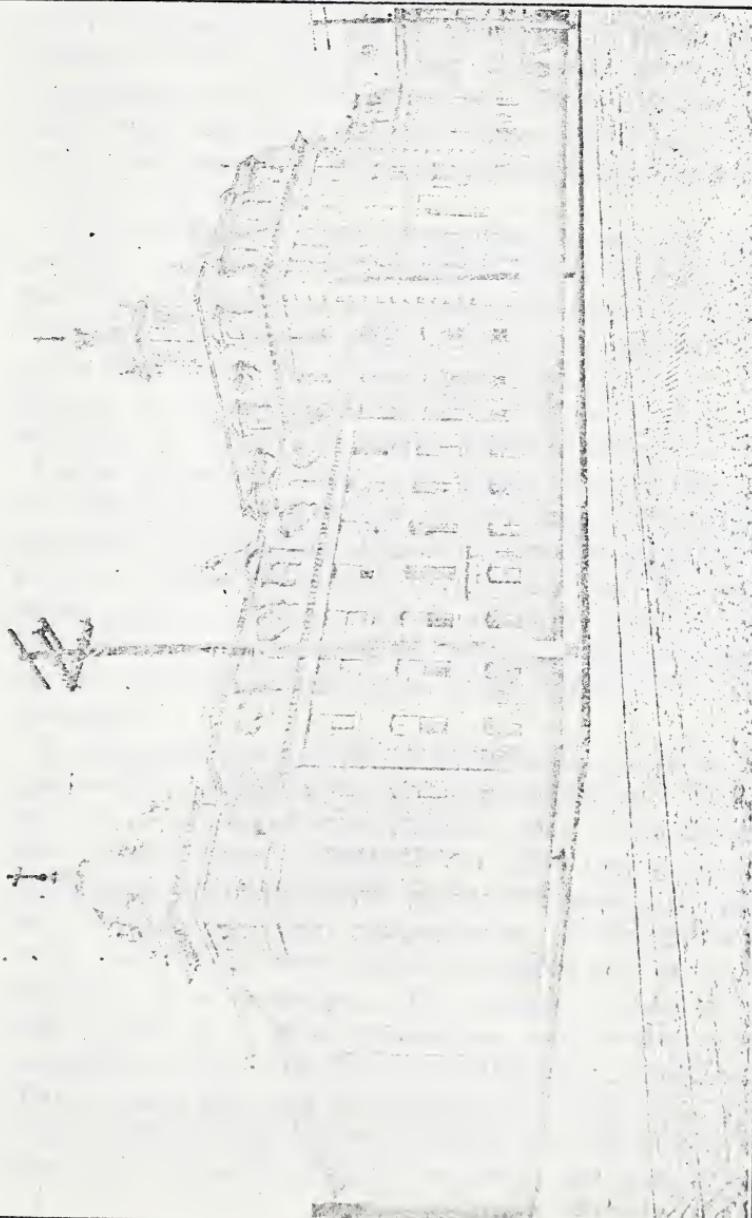
### CHAPTER XXVI.

This title may seem to be startling to many, because there are those who think that Germantown is one of the most heterogeneous of places, and so it is; yet with all its diversity and extremes, there is certainly a marvelous homogeneity here. In this community are to be found the very opposites in all the relationships of life. Here are the very wealthy and the very poor, the highly cultured and the rudely uncouth, the thrifty and vigorous, as well as the shiftless and idle; white and black, as well as persons of nearly all nationalities; the scrupulously religious and the positively irreligious. The same opposites appear in the lines of business, in the way of doing things, in the art of living and in all the forms that enter into the life and make-up of the town. Yet, with all these divergencies and apparent antagonisms, there are common platforms where there is a greater or less unity and where a certain homogeneousness asserts itself.

We see this in our public schools. There the children of the rich and poor, the cultured and the uncouth, the native born and the foreigner, the thrifty and the thriftless, meet in the same class rooms, study the same lessons, are subject to the same discipline, are sportive in the same recess and on the same playground. No one can look on and be familiar with life in or about our public schools without noting a striking illustration of our subject. These pupils come from homes as diversified, are the posterity of conditions as different, are themselves as multifarious in disposition as it is possible to conceive of; yet there is a striking unity if not uniformity. Only the other day, while looking



ST. VINCENT'S SEMINARY





into the enclosure around one of our schools, at the recess hour, a bystander remarked in our hearing, "That is a homogeneous crowd." He spoke the truth, and yet it was as heterogeneous as it well could be. Surely the American spirit which can unify and blend these opposites, as it did in the case referred to, is worthy of recognition, commendation and appreciation.

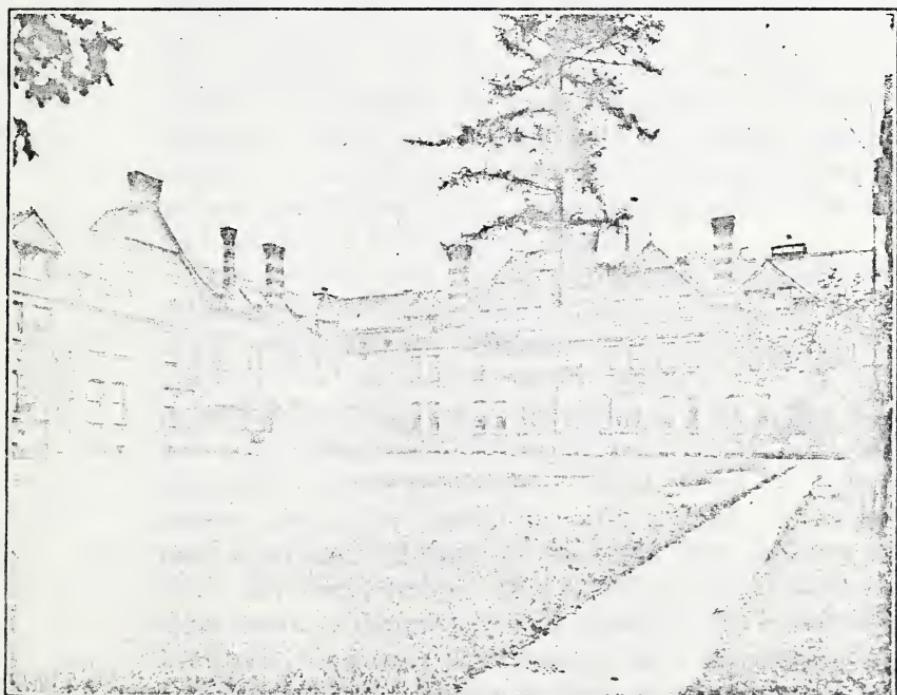
In the attendance upon our churches we see this subject specially exemplified. We hear sometimes of churches for the rich and churches for the poor. We do not know of a church in Germantown where the poor are not welcomed. As in Bible times, "the rich and poor meet together." Look in upon all the congregations, and at the same service you will find the dwellers of humble cottages as well as those of more pretentious homes—the highly cultured and those who have had less favorable surroundings, the worker in the factory, the mechanic from the shop, the clerk from the store, as well as the banker, the merchant and the professional—all entering into the make-up of the same audience. The diversity may be equal to the numbers in attendance, yet the homogeneousness of the entire assembly is a recognized fact.

In our street cars and on our steam railroads we have to accommodate ourselves to the same conditions. The car may be crowded and each occupant may be as different from all the others as possible, yet there they are in one conveyance, all treated alike, paying the same fare, standing or sitting, as it may chance to be. A thoughtful observer notes these facts and is impressed with the democraticness of all concerned. The trolley car, like the old stage coach, is a great commonizer and leveler in the humanities of life. Our Wayne, Germantown, Chelten and Olney avenue lines are no exceptions to this rule. Here the day laborer, the factory employe, the school girl, the store clerk, the millionaire, the merchant, the lady of fash-



ion, the different races, yea, all classes, travel together as if there were no distinctions.

Go into our stores, out upon the marts of trade, into our parks, into our secret societies, among our associations, upon our streets, at the post-office, where there may be entertainments, at the polls, everywhere, we are met by



COURTYARD OF CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY

these same homogeneous experiences. Why this is so arises mainly from the country in which we live. Our Republican form of government, its Democratic principles, and the general fusing of all elements into the great composite of American character. In no other nation under the sun is there such a homogeneity. It has its strik-



ing advantages, and to the minds of some it may have its disagreeable features. It is here all the same, and it is here to stay. A true intelligence recognizes it and seeks to make the best of it by aiming for the elevation and amelioration from those heterogeneous characteristics which may be deteriorating, demoralizing and undesirable, into that atmosphere where culture, a proper etiquette, self-respect, and a reasonable regard for the rights of and civilities to others shall have their sway. Thus it is that upon our same streets and highways are ranged the homes of culture, refinement, wealth and fashion with the abodes where the inmates are dependent on their daily toil, and where there are even conditions almost undreamed of, save to those who may personally be cognizant of them.

This blending and fusing and leveling of conditions in Germantown is not as common as to partake in the least of the vulgar and the obnoxious, nor is it so high as to be autocratic or patronizing, but it occupies a commendable mean between the two great extremes that makes a good and true homogeneousness which is pleasant to contemplate and a privilege to enjoy. In all of this the citizens of to-day are simply emulating and carrying out what has been a striking attribute of the town from its very inception. The early settlers were noted for this trait, and ever since down to the present time affability and compatibility, even amid a contrary environment, have been maintained.

Aside from the factors spoken of as conducive to the encouragement of this trait there are other favorable elements also helpful to the same end. The good sense and the true spirit of the people have their strong influence. The ties of kinship and friendship, even in diverging social conditions, keep flexible heartstrings which might under other circumstances produce rigidness and separation.



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## TELEPHONIC GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXVII.

In this chapter of our book I feel that I pay a high compliment to the place when I call it Telephonic Germantown. To my mind the telephone, all things considered, is the greatest of all modern inventions. To have it in your home or place of business for years and thus come to understand what a companion it is when entirely alone, enabling you to talk with the outside world; what a protection it is in the midst of threatened danger; what a comfort it is when sickness suddenly appears, affording immediate access to physician, drug store and needed friends; what a convenience it is for reaching stores, different persons whom you wish to converse with, and for the wide field of service required in business as well as social interests. As a time saver, a business conductor, a distance annihilator, an all-round convenience, there is nothing equal to or can take the place of the telephone.

While this great invention has been utilized in a thousand ways, yet it is practically only in the very infancy of its career and real utility. Before it are possibilities and uses we have not yet dreamed of. These will be realized and be as convenient as face to face consultation and enjoyment of the telephone will continue to win its way to universal public use and favor.

When one stops to think of all that the telephone is, permits and utilizes, and then comes to know that in our own beloved Germantown there are in the various homes, places of business and other structures over two thousand of these wonderful conveniences belonging to one company alone, surely we are proud to give the title Telephonic to



the place. The Germantown steam trains run on an average about every half hour, excepting a few hours in the very earliest part of the morning, the trolley cars every few minutes, excepting also these same earliest hours, but the telephone takes your message, as a rule, any moment, day or night, and brings you the answer, only in reasonably exceptional cases, instantly. Speaking from our own personal experience in this town, we have always found the



service prompt, courteous, reliable, and certainly very reasonable in price. It has saved many a frequent errand, many a long tramp, the necessity of writing many a letter. It has prevented many a disappointment, many a misunderstanding, and many an expenditure that would have been useless. We know its value and it is a privilege to write in its praise.



One of the great corporations, having large investments in and close connection with our town, a few years ago was involved in a business transaction requiring, to accomplish its plans in a necessary very limited space of time, twenty millions of dollars. Such was the momentousness of the need that New York had to be communicated with. The telegraph would not answer the purpose and there was not time for a personal visit, while the recourse to a letter was out of the question. The telephone was the dernier resort,



for what was done had to be done speedily and before the close of business hours. A Philadelphia broker telephoned a New York broker, who in turn called up a number of other stock brokers, and inside of twenty minutes he telephoned to this city that the loan was secured. As a result of this rapid action one of the greatest of modern business changes was brought about. This marvelous piece of speedy work gave us an impression of the value and utility



of the telephone which we had not before, but which has been growing upon us ever since.

In the above transaction the parties in New York did not know at the time what the real business was. The matter was carried on simply through the confidence existing between established stock dealing concerns. They were one hundred miles from the parties of interest in the transaction. In view of all the interests involved in this enterprise, the speed and conditions under which it was made a success, only the utilized facilities which the telephone afforded could have made the achievement even possible. To be able to sit down in your home or place of business and talk with parties at a distance as if they were by your side is the marvel of the ages.

This was wonderfully illustrated on the night of the last Presidential election. Through the courtesy, skill and tact of our Telephone Company all we had to do that evening was for the people to sit in their own quiet homes and with receiver at the ear get all the returns relative to the election from every part of the United States. That certainly was a triumph of science and of convenience which could have been furnished only by the telephone, and that, too, virtually without cost to all who had a phone in their possession, except the regular monthly charges. It certainly means much to this town's future, as well as present, to have all these telephonic facilities.

Another illustration of the utility of the telephone may be mentioned as it came under our own knowledge. A public meeting was desired to be held the next Friday evening in a certain town. It was already Monday and no arrangements had been made. The party in charge was at his wit's end. He was recommended to use the telephone, which he did. The first call was to ascertain whether the hall could be secured. This settled, the person needed to preside lived some thirty miles away. He was called by



the phone nearest to his residence, but it was learned that he had left for a city one hundred miles distant. How to reach him was the question. The telephone was again used and with success. Then a prominent speaker was desired from New York city. Again the phone was put in service. Within one hour all difficulties were overcome. The party in charge did not leave his seat and the cost was only a little over one dollar. The meeting was thus planned for under very trying conditions, but these were overcome by the telephone. It was held as planned for and was a great success.

In my work as a pastor I find the telephone an invaluable assistant. It saves my time. It saves many a mile of travel. In the varied calls upon me and in making important arrangements it is an incomparable helper. In many domestic and other needs it is a mighty relief in the service it can render. In many ways it more than pays for itself, as its actual cost in the Germantown zone is only about six and a half cents a day, while beyond, within the city limits, it can be used for an outlay of five or ten cents a call.

By this remarkable service Germantown is brought into face to face communication with a radius of territory covering at least a thousand miles in every direction, and with near-by towns by a distinctness and ease that is truly astonishing.



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## ACCESSIBLE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXVIII.

As one considers the remarkably central locality of Germantown, its steam railroad as well as trolley facilities for rapid transit, the highways leading to and passing through it, for all kinds of vehicles, the accessibility of the place to the outside world becomes very apparent. This is true now, but as these facilities are to be improved and greatly increased in number by elevated tracks through the built-up parts of the city, and by contemplated subways from the City Hall to and through our entire limits.

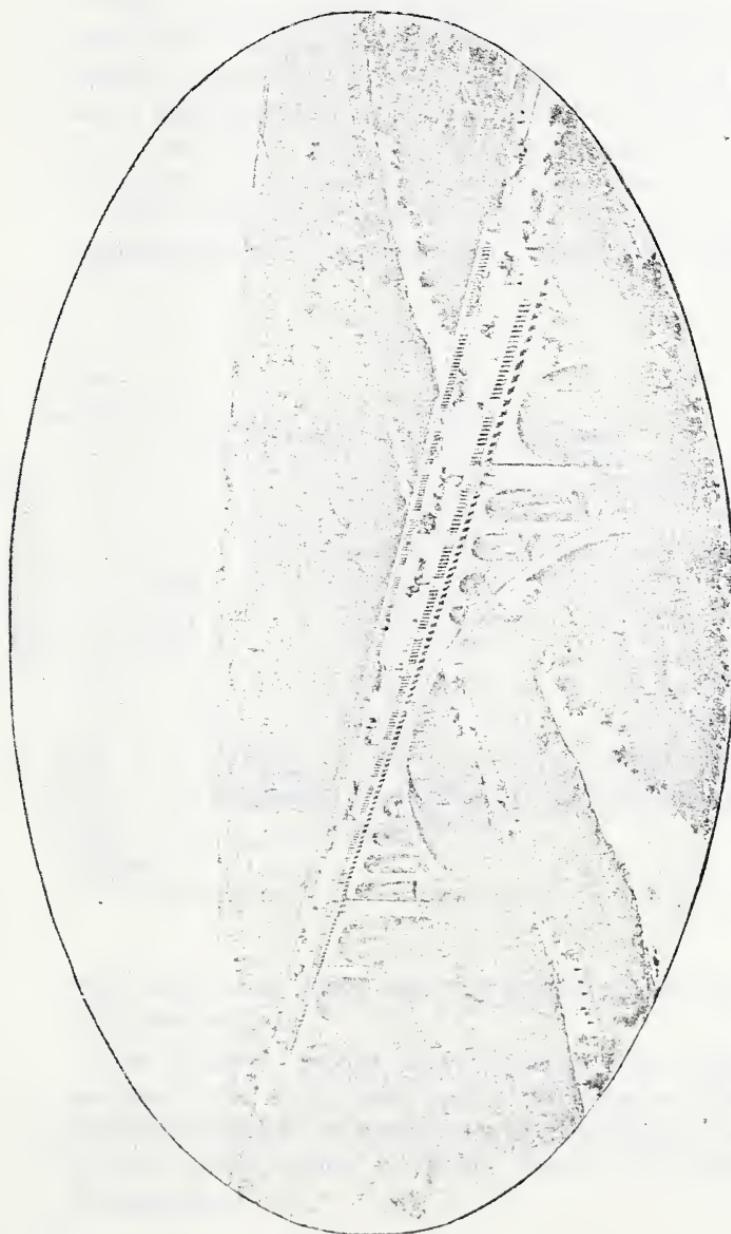
Already the Reading and Pennsylvania Roads, to and from the Terminal and Broad Street Stations, give us seventy-five trains each way every week-day, stopping at appropriate points on the way between Market street and Chestnut Hill, and all stopping at Chelten avenue, making that great, broad cross-town thoroughfare, prospectively, one of the most important highways for business in the northern part of the city.

Any hour almost, day and night, by way of North Philadelphia, on the Pennsylvania, and Germantown (Wayne) Junction on the Reading, there are the best possible connections with all parts of the country—North, South, East or West.

We have one of the best cross-town trolley lines in the city; with a car about every five minutes during the day and at suitable intervals all night long, between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers, connecting by transfer with the lines on Ridge avenue, Wayne avenue, Germantown avenue, Chelten avenue, York road, Fifth street, Frankford avenue and Richmond street.



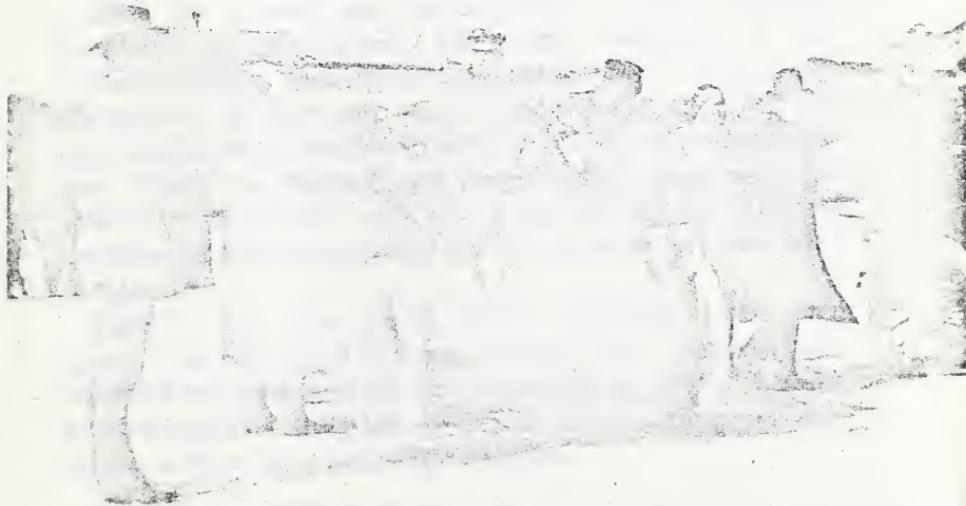
THE WALNUT LANE BRIDGE





There are also the Germantown avenue lines, with a car about every three minutes during the day, and at reasonable hours from midnight to early morning, connecting by transfer at important points, leading down to the very heart and lower part of the city, as well as up to connection with the Pottstown and Allentown lines out into the country.

Then there is the splendid Wayne avenue line, with its commodious cars and important connections through the



very centre and down into the southern part of the city, in its central part.

The Chelten avenue line, running from Wissahickon avenue to the York road, and in the summer time, when occasions require, on afternoons and evenings to and from Willow Grove, gives us good access to the picturesque Wissahickon.



We have also the noted Willow Grove line, by way of Glenside, running through our borders on Wayne, Chelten and Ogontz avenues, transferring to or connecting with almost everything in the city whose line it crosses between Second and Lehigh avenue and the City Line, as well as at Willow Grove with the Hatboro and Doylestown lines, and with the latter with cars to Easton.

As an idea of these facilities, about twelve hundred trolley cars each day cross at Germantown and Chelten avenues. This of itself indicates a means of access to different parts which is simply marvelous.

With the growth and development of the town other lines will be established. Upon the completion of the world-renowned concrete bridge across the Wissahickon, connecting Roxborough and Germantown, we shall be more and more accessible to other and important communities. With the Midvale and Ridge avenue lines we have splendid connections with the Park Trolley to different localities in Fairmount Park and the more western sections of the city.

Surely, with these rapid transit facilities at our very doors, this old historic town, founded two hundred and twenty-five years ago by the Germans, is entitled to the name accessible. Nor are we deficient in our supply of carriages, automobiles and other vehicles.



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## OUTREACHING GERMANTOWN

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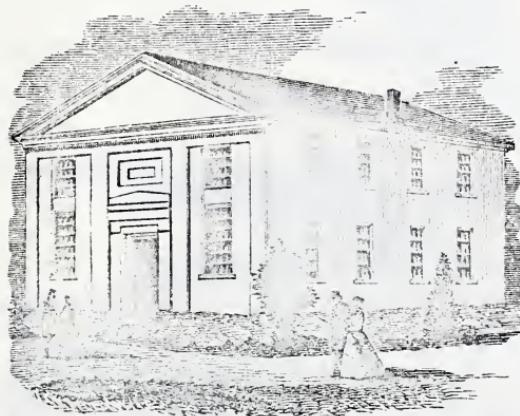
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### CHAPTER XXIX.

We use this title to speak of the communities that have sprung up in other places from persons who once lived here, or whose ancestors formerly dwelt in this place. A very close example of this comes to mind. Wigard Levering, his wife and four children settled here in 1685. They came from Gamen, in Westphalia. For seven years this was their home, but in 1692 they removed to what is now Roxborough, where he bought five hundred acres of land and became one of the founders of that community, with whose history his descendants have been so prominently identified. It was his grandson, William, who built the first hotel in Roxborough, known as "Leverington Hotel." Through his exertions the first schoolhouse in that town was erected, on land which he gave in 1748. The earliest efforts for the establishment of religious services there were made by the Levering family, whose ancestry first lived in Germantown. They were the founders of the historic Baptist Church in that community, gave the ground on which its meeting houses were erected. This church was organized in 1789, and from its constitution to the present time there have always been one or more of the descendants of Wigard Levering serving it as a deacon as well as in other offices of honor or trust. It was during the pastorate of the author of this book, from the beginning of 1865 to the latter part of 1877, that the old meeting house, back in the graveyard, was torn down and the present magnificent structure erected. The bell in the spire of this church took the prize at the Centennial Exposition in 1876.



From this noted family in Roxborough, whose first home in this country was Germantown, have gone members who have been identified with the building up of villages, towns and cities in other parts of this country. Notably is this the case with the Levering family, of Baltimore, Md., among whose honored names stand to-day the brothers, Eugene and Joshua Levering. The same might be said of Lafayette, Indiana, where the brothers, John and William, sons of Abraham Levering, became so distinguished in their day. All the renown and achieve-



THE OLD ROXBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH

ment of this family, through all these two hundred and sixteen years in the marvelous outreach, may be traced back with an ever-deepening interest to their original settlement in Germantown.

This is only one case in a thousand of similar ones. In every State and Territory of this country are those who take an honest pride in the first settlement of this town by their German ancestry. In all of these Commonwealths the Germans are observing, as an anniversary, October 6, commemorative of the event when their ancestors or those



from the same Faderland founded Germantown, the first community in this country to be established by Germans.

Thus it is that on the very recent two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the landing in Philadelphia of the founders of Germantown, from all parts of the coun-



ROXBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH, ERECTED 1877

try, and official representatives of Germany, were here to celebrate appropriately, under the direction of the German-American Alliance, the day so memorable in our history. All this is its own best commentary on the out-reaching influence of Germantown.



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## PROSPECTIVE GERMANTOWN

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### CHAPTER XXX.

It would be a pleasure to continue these chapters, on the good attributes of this town, and, in addition to the letters already used, sweep the entire English alphabet in the portrayal of noted characteristics, dwelling upon Delightful, Gastronomic, Knightly, Neighborly, Quizzical, Uplifting, Victorious, Excellent, Youthful and Zealous Germantown, but we forbear and close these sketches with a look into the future, a glance at Prospective Germantown.

Patrick Henry, in speaking of our country, said: "I have no way of judging the future but by the past." Judged by the past, Germantown's changes have been marvelous and her achievements wonderful. Upon this standard her future is certainly bright with hope and promise along every line of contemplation.

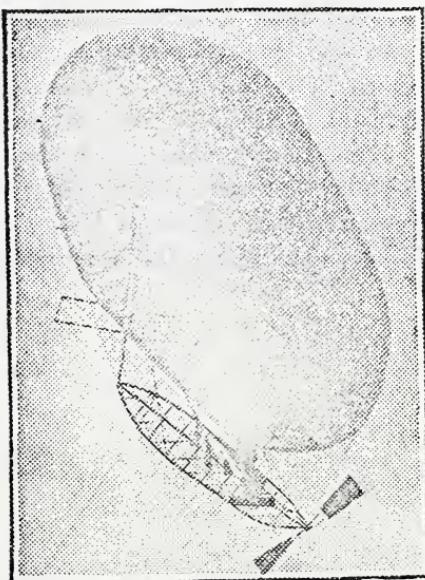
When the elevation of the Reading tracks from Spring Garden Station to Wayne Junction shall be an accomplished fact, and the line probably equipped with electricity, that will have much to do with our development and advance. When this same railroad shall go under the now dangerous crossings at Chelten avenue, Armat and Baynton streets, or avoiding altogether the present circuitous curve shall branch off below Wingohocking Station, and, by an elevated track, connect with the Chestnut Hill Road above Morton street, this will be one of the hopeful changes in the near future.

The prospective subway under Broad street from City Hall to the City Line, with probable branches under Germantown avenue, Chew street and other thoroughfares to



Chestnut Hill and elsewhere, will work marvelous changes in all this region.

Taking each one of the subjects enlarged upon or suggested in this book and following out the lines therein dwelt upon, the future of this place looms with an importance beyond the compass of human thought. Even the prophet's vision would fail to do justice to the ever-widening horizon that opens upon our imagination. Germantown



AIR SHIP.

has had a past, a glorious past, but on that past she cannot rest. To be equal to the occasion and the opportunities she must face toward the front and onward march to the immense conquests and possibilities of the broad and bright future awaiting her utilization.

No greater are the surprises that would greet the pioneers of 1683, could they visit us at the present time, than would



greet us two hundred and twenty-five years hence could we come back and view the place. It will be an ever-increasing centre of interest, influence and importance. There are boys and girls in our homes, upon our streets and connected with our schools to-day who will probably live to celebrate, seventy-five years from now, the three hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Founders of Germantown. When that day arrives, October 6, 1983, what they shall see as the achievements, changes and successes of the present century, no tongue can tell or prophet's pen portray. More than fifty-eight years of my own life or knowledge of this town have witnessed marvels, but not so great as will be witnessed in the years that are to come. Our prospective will be greater than our retrospective has been.

With an established High School within our borders, and every other needed facility supplied, Prospective Germantown will keep pace with the advancing times on which we shall continue to enter.

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